

Oklahoma Injury Prevention Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Minutes**

October 10, 2014

**Members Present:**

Dr. Mark Brandenburg, Chair  
Mark Brown, Product Safety Investigator, US Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Jessica Hawkins, Director, Prevention Service, OK Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services  
Lindsey Henson, RN, OU Medical Center, Trauma Pediatric Coordinator  
Chuck Mai, VP, Public Affairs, AAA Oklahoma/South Dakota  
Candida Manion, Executive Director, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
Jeff McKibbin, University of Central Oklahoma, Graduate Athletic Training Education Program  
Scott Schaeffer, Managing Director, Center for Poison Control and Drug Information  
Toni Short, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Caddo Nation Injury Prevention  
Mendy Spohn, Administrator, Carter County Health Department  
Ken Stewart, Protective Health Services, Emergency Systems, OK State Department of Health  
Garry Thomas, Director, Oklahoma Highway Safety Office  
Dr. Inas Yacoub, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

**Guests:**

Mark Anderson for Martha Ferretti, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center  
Jorge Delucca for David Bates, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, U.S. Dept. of Labor  
Betsy Graham, Injury Prevention Coordinator, St. John Medical Center, Tulsa  
Andrea Rai, Student, Center for Poison Control and Drug Information

**Staff:**

Sheryll Brown, Regina McCurdy, and 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 June 13, 2014, were approved.

**Interim Study on Texting While Driving**

Dr. Brandenburg introduced Chuck Mai with AAA Oklahoma. Chuck said that law enforcement, health agencies, parents, and others spoke before the House Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, during an interim study on anti-texting and driving laws. The interim study was hosted by Rep. Terry O'Donnell. Chuck said the state has wrestled with this issue for 12 years and AAA has been working for 6 years to get legislation passed. There has been a long list of legislators who have tried to get texting and driving laws passed in Oklahoma, but bills have been unable to make it to the governor's desk. Key legislators have stood in the way for reasons such as enforceability, freedom behind the wheel, and that OK already has a distracted driving law. Chuck said that 44 states have laws regarding texting and driving. He said that 86% of people in Oklahoma polled want a texting and driving ban. On Tuesday, legislators heard from state health agencies, law enforcement, and private companies on the importance of pursuing this type of legislation. However, none of those in opposition showed up. At the study, Rae Rice, Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company (OG&E), spoke. He said OG&E has set safety as one of their main values. Their vehicles are on the street while working on power lines. Their Chief Executive Officers have worked to get this type of legislation passed and believe now is the time. There have been two motor vehicle crashes involving

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motorists who were texting and driving and hit an OG&E vehicle. Chuck said the Oklahoma City Fire Department has also said they are in support of a ban because it has become increasingly harder to get drivers to pull over for emergency vehicles due to texting. Captain Randy Rogers with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) spoke at the study. He said any bill that was passed by the Legislature would need to be robust in nature, meaning it would need to address enforcement and recommend a stronger penalty than the current seat belt fine of \$20.00. Chuck said approximately 8,000 people die each year from using cellular devices on roadways, according to research conducted by Dr. Paul Atchley, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Kansas. Dr. Atchley was a speaker at the interim study and noted that the average age of new cell phone adoption today is 8 years of age. Having a cell phone in the car is the equivalent of being tapped on the shoulder each time a message is received. Dr. Atchley dispelled notions that a ban on texting while driving will not work and likened it to seat belt and drunk driving laws, which received similar pushback prior to their adoption. Another speaker at the study was Ed Klumpp, retired Chief of Police for Topeka, KS. He addressed concerns about adding more penalties when distracted driving laws already exist. Mr. Klumpp said passing a ban would create more uniformity across the legal system. -He said that eventually the state would reach a certain level of voluntary compliance, much like seat belt laws, which would reduce the work on law enforcement. Kansas' ban on text messaging while driving took effect January 1, 2011, and drivers who violate the law receive a \$60.00 fine. Kansas saw a decrease of 10% in observational cell phone use while driving, which is significant because of the overall increase in prevalence of cell phones. -Dave Koeneke, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Safety Council and long-time advocate for a texting and driving ban, also spoke at the study. When asked by legislators what he felt were impediments to passing the law, Dave told them the chief impediment has been lawmakers' personal beliefs and opinions. Chuck said that Rep. O'Donnell will be proposing legislation in the House this year. Regarding cities passing bans on texting and driving, there is a preemption law prohibiting cities from passing laws that are more restrictive than state law.

Virgil Green said that officers can ticket people now but they usually don't. If we had a texting and driving law, police departments should enforce it. Garry Thomas said that most officers wouldn't have a problem enforcing the law if it was specific and the fine was more than \$10.00. Dr. Brandenburg said there was a similar situation related to a law regarding kids riding in the back of pickups. An Attorney General's opinion was obtained stating that children in the back of pickups were subject to child restraint laws. A similar process may be applied for texting and driving as it is not giving full attention to driving.

### Sports Concussions

Dr. Brandenburg sent an e-mail on PBS's "Frontline" series concerning chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) among NFL football players. Some CTE damage was found in 95% of all brains of NFL athletes tested. This finding indicates that football players may not have had recognized concussions to incur brain damage. The damage may occur from subclinical head injuries over years and years of play from junior high school through college. Jeff McKibbin, Program Director of the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program at the University of Central Oklahoma, provided an update on sports-related concussion legislation. He said sub-concussive contact is not tracked and is more difficult to detect than concussions. Previously, the injury was not deemed a concussion unless the student athlete had been unconscious. Now that has changed. The attempt last year to improve the 2010 concussion law sailed through the committees but failed on the Senate floor. It added penalties for not following the law and also held youth sports associations to the same standards. Proponents are now going back to the drawing table trying to find out where the legislation went bad. All 50 states plus D.C. now have concussion laws but only 10 states have revised them to increase protection for student athletes. Jeff said they are working with Lauren Long, a 23-year-old female soccer player and national advocate for improving youth sports safety. She was diagnosed with probable CTE as a result of 10 concussions as a soccer player. Her story is available on [concussionconnection.com](http://concussionconnection.com). Jeff said that Oklahoma needs to implement a sports emergency action plan, which

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would be no cost to schools. He knows that Edmond schools have fixed their plan. An interim study will be held on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, to address a wide range of sports safety issues. There should be a lot of people attending the interim study by the public health committee to help promote better health care in youth sports. Rep. Kirby and Rep. Derby, committee members, will link in to watch and work on dialog to try to get the legislation passed. The NFL has helped states that have an NFL team work on legislation and have provided some funding for schools for health care providers. Changes are coming as more is learned about concussions. OU is now using helmets that measure hits.

### Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Update

Jorge Delucca, OSHA Compliance Assistant Specialist, gave an update on their annual report. He reported that there were 26 work-related deaths in Oklahoma last fiscal year, which is the most in the last 5-6 years. There were 405 deaths nationwide. The average age of workers killed was 39-48 years old. Dr. Brandenburg said that family farms have decreased and are being replaced by commercial farms. Five years ago, family farms were not reporting if kids were hurt, but now they will have to because of commercial farm operations.

OSHA has changed their rules regarding reporting work-related incidents. The most significant revisions involve reporting requirements. Employers are now required to report within 24 hours any work-related incident resulting in the inpatient hospitalization of one or more employees, an employee's amputation or an employee's loss of an eye.

### Ebola

Dr. Kristy Bradley, State Epidemiologist, had planned to be at the meeting to speak on the Ebola crisis, but was unable to attend. She sent a hand out with Ebola information. Dr. Brandenburg discussed the Ebola case in the Dallas hospital and the implications for preparedness. He said the Ebola outbreak is now the worst human catastrophe in modern times since AIDS. Statistics show that it is likely everyone will be affected somehow. By mid-January, the CDC has projected, under current conditions, there will be 1.4 million cases with 5,000-7,000 deaths in Africa will spill all over the world and will impact many people. It is droplet transmitted, not airborne transmitted. He expects there will be a vaccine within the next 1 ½-2 years. Dr. Brandenburg said that hospital emergency departments nationwide are now intensively preparing to deal with this problem since the Dallas event. He said there is no surge capacity in emergency departments.

### Injury Prevention Service Update

Sheryll Brown announced that the Injury Prevention Service (IPS) is working on the new prescription drug overdose grant that will involve data linkage of the prescription monitoring program and Medicaid data with health outcome data. She said there is a new initiative to improve nursing home residents' care and the IPS will be working with Dr. Hank Hartsell, OSDH Deputy Commissioner of Protective Health, on falls prevention. A challenge to reduce falls among the elderly was issued by Governor Fallin to the OSDH. Also, Healthy Aging: Living Better Longer, is the 2014-2015 President's Challenge of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers. Part of this challenge includes falls prevention. According to recent data, 5% of nursing home residents in Oklahoma have had a fall with serious injuries. Mark Anderson said Martha Ferretti will be interested in this work and that students will be educated on Tai Chi. Jorge said that OSHA is also looking at inspections of nursing homes for worker safety. Sheryll announced that Gordy Suchy will be retiring at the end of the year.

### Discussion

Jessica Hawkins announced there is a new long-acting hydrocodone product, Zohydra, which is of some concern. The Drug Enforcement Administration rule rescheduling certain opioids went into effect this week. This will impact

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doctors and pharmacies. Physician assistants and nurse practitioners can no longer write prescriptions for hydrocodone. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) expects to see an increase in overdose deaths by heroin after this rule goes into effect. As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, naloxone, also known as Narcan, can be purchased from pharmacies so lay people have access. They will need a prescription from a medical provider per federal law. There have now been 400 law enforcement personnel trained in the use of naloxone in the Tulsa area with 800 kits distributed. Garfield County, the OHP, the ABLE Commission and the OK Bureau of Narcotics will be trained. Heroin deaths have doubled and law enforcement is seeing more in the Tulsa area. Naloxone is a safety net as there have been 8 prescription opioid saves in Tulsa. Jessica announced that ODMHSAS has been awarded two grants for suicide prevention; No Suicides and youth suicide prevention. The agency received an \$8.5 million award for prescription drug abuse prevention.

Garry Thomas, Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, announced the Governor's Impaired Driving Task Force Plan. The Task Force was commissioned by the Governor 1 ½ years ago. Ten members were appointed to prepare a plan to end impaired driving. The Plan is in the roll out phase. The Governor's kick-off of the End DUI Campaign will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am with a press release. The Plan includes illegal and prescription drugs as well and will include ads, print, and billboards. The Plan integrates law enforcement, the prosecution process, and mental health evaluations. The Governor's Task Force will be looking at legislation about DUI's this next session.

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**Next Meetings** - January 9, 2015 and June 12, 2015 and October 9, 2015

**Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.