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MINUTES OF THE STOP-DWI PLANNING BOARD
September 9, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Angela Flesland	Lt. Frank LaMonica	Nick Johnson
Sgt. Christine Lopez	John Thomes	John Merwin
Tony Marchese	Michael Hill	Ann Rush
William Grady	Brad Kendall	Ernie Floegel
Margaret Hirst		

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eric Bickmann **Matthew S. Vetare**

A. Flesland made a motion to approve the June 3, 2014 minutes. N. Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2015 STOP-DWI Plan

W. Johnson referred the board to the handout of the draft 2015 STOP-DWI Plan which is due to GTSC on October 1, 2014. A copy of the plan was e-mailed to the board for their review and approval. N. Johnson made a motion to accept the plan. F. LaMonica seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Program & Fiscal Status

W. Johnson reviewed arrest numbers and fine revenue received to date. The 2nd quarter revenue was received from the state in the amount of \$116,477.00. The total revenue received through the 2nd quarter totaled \$255,957. We are on target to reach the projected revenue amount for the year of \$440,000 - \$450,000.

W. Johnson referred the board to the handout listing cumulative arrests. The 1st quarter arrest figures totaled 312 arrests, which is the lowest number of arrests in the 1st quarter since 2002. At the end of the 2nd quarter the number of arrests for the first six months of the year totaled 623, which is also the lowest number of arrests in twelve years through the 2nd quarter. In 2013 the total number of arrests for the year was 1,363 with 645 arrests made during the first six months of the year. In 2012 the total number of arrests for the year was 1,399 with 682 arrests made during the first six months of the year.

Due to the shrinking arrest figures we have been very prudent in the 2015 budget proposal. As of year-end 2013 there is only \$45,737.16 in the dedicated fund balance. There may be

a potential draw down of approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 from the fund for current (2014) appropriations which total \$458,000 as well as an additional \$90,000 for the Crackdown Grant. The 2014 budget appropriations were based on the projected revenue of \$440,000 - \$450,000. The fine revenue for 2013 totaled \$449,000 which was based on 2012 arrests. The proposed 2015 budget is based on projected fine revenue of \$410,000. W. Johnson attended the initial 2015 budget review meeting at the Budget/Executives Office and there was discussion regarding the program's support of the three county contracts and the proposed reduction of funding from STOP-DWI in 2015.

W. Grady stated that the prosecution program funded by STOP-DWI was implemented many years ago to supplement the salary for an Assistant D.A., and was later increased to three Assistant D.A.'s and other programs when the fine revenue increased. When the fine revenue decreased there were across the board cuts. He takes the position that budget cuts should be prioritized and funding for prosecution and conviction of DWI arrests should not be included in across the board cuts. He feels that the County is taking money away from itself by cutting the program. Instead of using the fine revenue to subsidize the program, the County will have to come up with the funding in their budget. He stated there are other agencies not part of the county that benefit from the fine revenue. W. Johnson stated that he made the county aware over the past several years that STOP-DWI couldn't sustain its expenditures and county contracts at higher funding levels. The Dutchess County STOP-DWI Plan has historically maintained a comprehensive program that includes law enforcement, prosecution, probation, rehabilitation, public information, and administration. The STOP-DWI committee has been equitable and fair in funding all the components of the program.

W. Johnson also mentioned that he attended a workshop in Westchester County on collection of DWI fines, strategies and best practices. DWI fine collection is an issue across the state. As discussed previously some counties have instituted a policy of mandatory fines paid for those cases where defendants have received a plea agreement to the lesser DWAI charge. M. Hill handed out a sheet regarding DWI/AI arrest rates for 2012 which shows that Dutchess County had the second highest rate of 1192 arrests at 0.443% of the population. Sixteen percent of the arrests go to Probation. W. Johnson stated that the report for 2013 will show lower arrest rates due to reduced funding from STOP-DWI to law enforcement agencies for DWI patrols. Most of the funding for law enforcement agencies is now through the Crackdown Grant which limits when patrols and checkpoints can be administered. M. Hill said that fine revenue would increase if there was a stricter model regarding plea bargaining. Ontario County does not accept plea bargains and therefore has the highest conviction rate of 86.4%. W. Grady will follow up on the conviction/fine issue.

Data

W. Johnson referred the board to the NYS DMV 2013 conviction data handout and the 2nd Quarter Last Drink Report. The board will review the handouts at their convenience. W. Johnson will provide a copy of the Last Drink Report to high risk bars and law enforcement agencies.

Law Enforcement

The Crackdown claims from Labor Day are being received and processed. Prior to the Labor Day Crackdown there was approximately a \$40,800 balance in the grant. \$25,865 was appropriated to 10 agencies for the Labor Day Crackdown. Some of the agencies have not utilized all of their allocation; therefore W. Johnson has informed the State that approximately \$18,000 - \$20,000 will be returned. He will send out a program summary to

the board members along with the minutes when the final figures are calculated for the 2013-2014 Crackdown Grant.

The 2014-2015 Crackdown Grant funding for Dutchess County has been approved at \$128,700. A resolution request was submitted to the County Executive's Office to increase our 2014 budget by \$50,000 for the crackdown periods from October 1st through December 31st. The balance of \$78,700 is already included in the 2015 proposed budget for the remainder of the grant year (January 1 through September 30, 2015).

W. Johnson plans to have a kickoff meeting with law enforcement chiefs and reporting officers regarding expectations for the grant funding. In order for the program to be effective it must be comprehensive and county-wide.

Additions

The Regional A-RIDE Training scheduled at the T/O Poughkeepsie PD was canceled due to lack of enrollment. Only five individuals representing three (3) agencies enrolled for the training. This is the first time a class has ever been canceled in the history of the Drug classification program in the State and it will be a hard sell to get another back in Dutchess.

W. Johnson initiated discussion of the annual STOP-DWI Awards Ceremony Luncheon. He mentioned that there is \$3,000 in this year's budget for the ceremony. This will be the 20th year for the luncheon. He asked the board if they felt the format should change for the ceremony. The ceremony gives the STOP-DWI Program exposure and acknowledges the hard work of Law Enforcement the officers. The board members had varying opinions on what changes should be made to the ceremony and if or not it should be held. W. Johnson suggested forming a workgroup to discuss the options and come to a conclusion. He will e-mail board members about the workgroup and those who want to volunteer will meet in a couple of weeks.

W. Johnson informed the board about a new NYS STOP-DWI Foundation mobile phone app that can be downloaded to smart phones called "Have A Plan". This new free app helps individuals get home safely with multiple features. He encouraged the board members to download the app and take a look at it. He will distribute the materials promoting this app to high risk bars and at college health fairs. B. Kendall will also distribute the materials at the DMV.

W. Johnson informed the board of a STOP-DWI Regional Coordinator's meeting on 9/19/14 at 10:30 a.m.

The DEA approved new rules for the Drug Take Back drop boxes. Starting September 9th, pharmacies will be allowed to have drop boxes. M. Hirst informed the board of a Drug Abuse Forum that will be held on September 18, 2014 at Poughkeepsie High School. She mentioned that they will have a drop box there. W. Johnson cautioned that approval/variances are required from the proper State agencies before drugs can be collected outside of the secured, permanent sites. W. Johnson mentioned that drug collection was done at senior picnics this past summer, however prior approval was needed by NYS Health, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and the NYS DECX. A. Flesland will follow up discussion with Health Quest to assist with the purchase of additional drop boxes to establish other locations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next STOP-DWI Planning Board meeting will be held on December 9, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary K. Fields - STOP-DWI