

**Minutes from the
Governor's Task Force on Teen Driving**

**Public and Parental Awareness Subcommittee
Minutes**

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

2:30 p.m.

Farmington Police Department, Farmington, CT

Task Force Members Present: Dianne Harnad (CT DMHAS), James Rio (Farmington Police Department), Gillian Mosher (Backus Hospital) (via phone)

Others present: Lynn Townshend (CT DPH), Angie Byrne (NTHSA), Bill Seymour (CT DMV), Carol Meredith (CT DMHAS), Marian Storch (CT DPH)

Dianne Harnad presented a logic model with regard to this topic for the group's consideration. There was consensus that this subcommittee should work in concert with and be informed by the work of the other subcommittees of the task force, with a strong desire not to work in a vacuum. The basis of the committee should be in statistics and trends.

There was discussion of the effectiveness of graduated driver's licensing for teens from a public health perspective. There is much public health based evidence that related programs and laws with consistent, strong enforcement components, such as Click It or Ticket, do work.

The effectiveness of requiring stickers for novice drivers was questioned, with James Rio indicating that such stickers can present challenges for law enforcement.

Education from a public health perspective was also discussed, with an emphasis on messaging needing to be presented differently in order to account for cultural backgrounds. Way need to be identified as to how to help parents and guardians meet the obligation of teaching teens to drive.

Discussion also took place surrounding the use of already existing public health coalitions and working to integrate messages developed in this area into already existing networks (such as local drug and alcohol prevention councils).

There was much discussion regarding the possibility of recommending on permanent epidemiological work group to measure the effectiveness of graduated licensing laws, either as they now exist or as they may change upon recommendation from the task force, the Governor and/or the legislature.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 from 3 PM – 5 PM at Hill Regional Career High School, 140 Legion Avenue, New Haven.