

Minutes for WKU Safe Community Coalition meeting

April 28, 2016, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Attendees: Brandon Higgins, HR; Anita Britt, EHS; Jennifer Tougas, PTS; Bryan Russell, CFO/PDC; Sarah Haught, AARC/EM; Pam West, HRL; Melna Wilson, EHS; Cynthia George, EHS

Updates: Anita Britt briefly discussed details regarding the upcoming Safe Communities Networking Conference. She encouraged anyone that had an interest in attending to contact her for additional information. Conference is in Chicago, IL, August 7-9.

The group was informed of our (Brandon & Anita) participation in the Safe Communities America quarterly call that was held on February 16, 2016. The purpose of these customary conference calls was explained to the group. In addition, it was noted that Genia McKee, Coordinator for Injury Prevention and Research with Safe Communities recently visited campus. The reason for the meeting was to provide local community and network updates as well as possible resources available to WKU. During the visit, Ms. McKee was informed of a recent project involving research of sit/stand workstations—a partnership between HR, Wellness, Work Comp and Kinesiology to improve campus ergonomics. Ms. McKee later shared this initiative with Safe Communities America which was then showcased in their latest newsletter. Ms. Britt urged departments to share their initiatives/programs so they may be recognized as well.

Notice was given that the 2016 Annual Coalition Report had been completed and a brief summary as to what the process consists of was provided. Those that submitted initiatives to include in the annual report were thanked. Everyone was encouraged to submit any new programs or upcoming initiatives for inclusion in next year's report.

A previous discussion was held on linking the Safe Community reference on university webpages. After review, it was determined that not all webpages contained a working Safe Communities link. Those in attendance were notified to check their respective webpages to ensure the Safe Communities reference links were present and operational. Corie Martin, Manager of Creative Web Services was mentioned as resources to assist.

Current Discussions: Bryan Russell informed the group that the university had recently completed a project that identified all gender neutral restrooms facilities. These areas include single use and public use. Locations are posted on the university websites and maps. This was noted as a possible initiative to highlight and share.

Coalition member replacements were discussed. Brian Kuster with HRL is scheduled to fill the Advisory Board vacancy left by Howard Bailey. Welcome Pam West, HRL & Sarah Haught, Enrollment Management.

Ideas to expand the coalition group to include a representative from Athletics and Academia were examined. Tanner Siewert with Athletic Advising was mentioned as possibility to fill that role as well as provide an additional connection with the Faculty group. An idea was presented to also include someone from the International Student Office (ISO). Stephanie Seagreen was named as a potential coalition member to fill that role. Other potential areas to consider representation from included extended campuses, Student Disability Services and the Alumni Center.

Updates regarding established task groups were shared. Brandon Higgins stated that the Drug and Alcohol Task Group was scheduled to meet next month (May) and details from that meeting would be shared during the next coalition gathering.

Jennifer Tougas mentioned that the Pedestrian Task Group was currently working on crossing project located between the Augenstein Alumni Center and main campus. The group is currently working with the City to help bolster safety. In addition, the group is also developing a Green Way program to address pedestrian and bike safety. This initiative is partially in response to the “Gordon Ave incident” (not campus related) where a young child was struck by a motor vehicle while crossing. Dispersing informational mailers to those purchasing Parking Permits is also scheduled to occur. The mailers will contain pertinent safety instructions for pedestrians, cyclist and motorist.

Melna Wilson with EHS provided an update on behalf of the Emergency Preparedness Task Group. Ms. Wilson stated that the Drone Policy was complete and was in the approval process. The Active Shooter video was complete and training was currently taking place. It was first rolled out to Faculty—Honors College.

WKU Safe Communities Future: Members to host future coalition meeting was discussed as well as guest speakers. A potential Guest speaker for the fall meeting included Genia McKee with Safe Communities America. In an effort to further enhance knowledge and build relationships between coalition partners, it was recommended that each coalition member host a meeting at their respective location. The next coalition meeting is scheduled for the Fall Semester in which Parking and Transportation agreed to host.