

Members Present

Richard Klepner	OHS
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Tina Shockley	DOE
Todd Webb	DelDOT
Lauren DeVore	DNREC
Brian Clarke	DelDOT

DelDOT Support Staff

Sarah Coakley	DelDOT
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Members Absent

Peter Haag	DelDOT
Matthew Cox	DSP
Darlene Cole	DHSS

Guests

Dean Betts	Department of Education
Crystal Custis	DMV
Kenneth Shock	DMV

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Co-Chair Richard Klepner.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

All members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 23 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Klepner asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Ms. Linda Osiecki made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Todd Webb seconded the motion and it was approved by all subcommittee members in attendance.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Review of Drivers Education and Defensive Driving recommendations and Council request for additional information

Mr. Klepner reminded the subcommittee that they had made recommendations regarding Drivers Education and Defensive Driving in order to increase the amount of pedestrian materials included in both programs, and the Council had tabled them, asking for additional information. He said that staff from both programs are attending the meeting today to provide information on the current programs.

Discussion of Defensive Driving Program

Mr. Klepner asked to begin with the Defensive Driving Program and turned the meeting over to Ms. Crystal Custis. Ms. Custis shared that Section 2224 of the Delaware Administrative Code is the regulation that covers Defensive Driving course, providers, and instructors. She said it is vague when it comes to pedestrians and referenced section 3.2.14, which says "Pedestrian" in referring to what the course materials are required to include at a minimum. She said the extent of materials

covered is up to the providers and could vary from “watch for pedestrians” to something more in depth. Mr. Kenneth Shock shared that the regulation is in a review period now. He said that providers can pick what they include in the course, but all include something about pedestrians since it says “Pedestrian.”

Mr. Klepner asked if DMV staff have a preference or think it should be more specific. Mr. Shock said that they like giving the providers the opportunity to make the course their own. Ms. Custis said that they looked at how other states in the region treat defensive driving. She said one state requires providers to submit their course curriculum and justify it. Mr. Shock said that if the subcommittee has recommendations, they will be considered. He reiterated that Defensive Driving is not required, but is an option to get insurance discounts or DMV point credits. Ms. Osiecki noted that some of the other topics are more specific and suggested that the pedestrian topic should have some specific material. Ms. Lauren DeVore agreed that specific guidance on what to include should be provided, from both the driver perspective and pedestrian perspective. Ms. Osiecki suggested content such as the White Cane Law, HAWK signals, and yield law. Mr. Brian Clarke suggested information on the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB). Mr. Klepner said that the state code provisions pertaining to pedestrians can be confusing, that Office of Highway Safety gets a lot of questions about it, and that information on it should be included in the courses. Mr. Webb asked if the courses are different. Ms. Custis answered that yes, the course is customized by the provider.

Mr. Shock suggested that the subcommittee provide comments and shared that he has to have proposed changes by Friday, September 30, in order to be considered for the October 15 register of regulations deadline. It was suggested to include pedestrian safety, yielding to pedestrians, White Cane Law, HAWK signals, and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon as subjects to be included. Mr. Clarke explained how the HAWK signal and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon function. Ms. Osiecki verified that DelDOT would be able to provide locations and examples of these types of facilities in Delaware to the providers as needed. Ms. Osiecki made a motion to recommend that section 3.2.14 be modified to read “Pedestrians, including pedestrian safety, yielding to pedestrians, White Cane Law, HAWK signals, and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons.” Ms. DeVore seconded the motion and it was approved by all subcommittee members in attendance. Mr. Webb asked how often the regulations are updated. It was shared that they are updated periodically through the Register of Regulations process, but not often due to the lengthy process. The subcommittee discussed concerns regarding the potential for additional crossing treatments to be adopted but not included in the regulations. They also discussed the status of the RRFB as a treatment approved on an interim basis and not knowing when or if it would become a permanent treatment. Ms. Osiecki made a motion to modify the recommended regulation change to read “Pedestrians, including pedestrian safety, yielding to pedestrians, White Cane Law, and active traffic control devices for pedestrian crossings such as HAWK signals and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons.” Mr. Webb seconded the motion and it was approved by all subcommittee members present. Ms. Sarah Coakley will email the recommendation language to Ms. Custis and Mr. Shock.

Discussion of Drivers Education Curriculum

Mr. Klepner introduced Mr. Dean Betts with the Department of Education and asked him to provide information on the Drivers’ Education program. Mr. Betts shared that Drivers’ Education is free for 10th grade students to take one time, except for special education classrooms. He said it includes 1350 minutes of education, with 315 minutes or 7 hours in the car, but only 135 minutes of actual driving. He said the Delaware Drivers Safety Education Association (DDSEA) makes decisions regarding the program and curriculum. He said they are very protective but when they buy into something, they go with it. He shared how students used to receive a blue certificate at

age 15, but there was a crash involving a 15 year old Indian River High School student novice driver that killed a kid who entered a roadway to retrieve a ball. He said this incident resulted in the curriculum guide, that is updated every three years. He said the State allows him to modify the test and changes go through this DDSEA. He said that students have to take the test, but not pass it, they have to pass the course. He shared one test question that is related to pedestrians. He said there is no longer a text book, but the DMV Driver Manual is used. He suggested the subcommittee provide several new questions for the test and he will have the DDSEA review them. He said the law regarding Drivers' Education was passed in 1934 so it's not going to change, but can include pedestrian information on test and in curriculum. He passed out the Safer People, Safer Streets Summary handout from the US DOT.

Mr. Klepner asked where in the course is the pedestrian information presented. Mr. Betts answered that the pedestrian safety information is included in the classroom material, along with the rules of the road which are covered first, prior to getting into the vehicle. Ms. Osiecki asked about the role of the Safer People, Safer Streets document. Mr. Betts answered that it is given to instructors as part of their tool box of resources. He said pedestrians are included in module 4 and that when students are in the vehicle, the routes are chosen to include the scenarios in the modules. Ms. Tina Shockley asked who delivers Drivers' Education courses. Mr. Betts said that private and public high schools provide the courses, including 17 private high schools with 13 teachers. He also provides training for 86 full-time public school teachers. The Central YMCA of Dover also has a program that he is in charge of and monitors. This program is provided by part-time retirees who maintain their teaching credentials. All programs use the same curriculum. He also shared that there is an adult driving education course, but it also includes some 16 year olds, because the course is only free once in 10th grade. All courses are operated under Mr. Betts' oversight. The test is based on the DMV manual. Someone pointed out that the White Cane Law is included on page 93 of the manual.

Mr. Klepner asked the subcommittee members to review the manual, in order to discuss it in more detail at a future meeting. He said that it sounds like there are more options with regards to making recommendations. Ms. Osiecki stated that the test is 100 questions and asked if questions could be added. Mr. Betts said that yes, questions may be added.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Educational Opportunities with DSCYF/Kids Department

Mr. Klepner stated that this topic would be discussed at a future meeting since a Kids Department representative was unable to attend the meeting today.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Klepner opened the floor to public comment. None were received.

VII. ADJOURN

Ms. Shockley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Webb seconded the motion. All subcommittee members present were in favor of the motion, no members were opposed, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Meeting Minutes reported by:
Sarah Coakley, AICP

Draft minutes distributed September 29, 2016