

**MINUTES: 9/8/20 ALCOHOL TASK FORCE**

**12 - 1 PM**

**Online and in person at Public Health**

**Present Online:**

**Mike Crosson**

**Annie Adams**

**Clayton Melinkovich**

**Sublette County Attorney**

**Dept of Family Services**

**Deputy County Attorney**

**Present in person:**

**Cassie Crumpton**

**Stan Cannon**

**Diana Watkins**

**Robin Carnes**

**Trisha Scott**

**Sublette County Treatment Court**

**Deputy County Attorney**

**Community member**

**Public Health**

**Prevention Coordinator**

**Meeting notes:**

Mr. Crosson gave an update on his work with the legislature's Judiciary committee to develop a state statute on zero tolerance for BAL of illegal substance at time of arrest. A bill was drafted by committee staff and will be considered during the 2021 session. This will give prosecutors more teeth when prosecuting impaired driving arrests when illegal substances are on board.

Mr. Cannon then spoke about legal consequences for minors in possession of alcohol arrests; minors arrested for DUI; and legal consequences for parents/adults who purchase alcohol for minors (there are none). There is no law that says you cannot give your child alcohol. Mr. Cannon and Mr. Crosson and Annie Adams from DFS reported that the county attorney's office collaborates with the district court and DFS to create case plans for kids and families involved with the law that are intended to give kids the chance to complete case plans and not have their arrests on their record for the rest of their life. Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) efforts also involve school and counseling staff. Cases are handled individually, not one consequence fits all.

On prevention: All present agreed that the biggest single motivator for kids to not drink and drive is the threat of losing their driver's license. The coalition can educate the community through social and other media about legal consequences: loss of license, fines, and interlock costs. Those present recommended asking Judge Tyler to provide a message to the community, possibly video, connecting the dots between choice, action, and loss of freedom. This task force will continue to work with the Treatment Court and the County Attorney's office to provide accurate information to the community on legal consequences of underage drinking.

Next meeting: December 8.

