

**Minutes from Eureka SRTS Task Force Meeting
October 20 2015, 11 am – noon**

Task Force Members Present

Tim Jones – Eureka Police Department
Sheri Jensen – Washington Elementary
Mellody Mallick – Humboldt County DHHS Public Health
Joan Levy – Humboldt County DHHS Public Health
Jenny Weiss - Redwood Community Action
Melanie Williams – Bikes There
Sheila Parrott – City of Eureka
Dana Murguia – Humboldt County DHHS Public Health

September Meeting Minutes: There were a few corrections made. There was no City of Eureka Council Meeting on October 5, but there was Fortuna City Council meeting on October 5 at 6pm and a IWTSD Proclamation was read.

International Walk to School Day Report Out: Mellody prepared a slideshow with highlights from all four ECS elementary schools that participated in IWTSD. Some kids walked from home and others met at designated remote drop off locations.

Alice Birney had a huge turnout as they typically do with 225 students and 35 adults participating. They walked from Winco and carried mini flags from countries around the world to celebrate the 'international' aspect of the event. Principal Georgeanne and teachers wore fruit costumes on loan from DHHS.

Around 35 Grant Elementary students met and walked from JoAnn Fabrics and had a police escort when crossing the street. Some confusion around permission slips printed on the back of another handout prevented some students from taking the bus to the remote drop off this year. Some students carried a Walking School Bus banner and had a very fun time.

Approximately 75 Lafayette students met and walked one mile from Sacred Heart church to school. Around 25 additional students walked from home. All walkers signed a posted when they got to school. Jenny wore her cone costume and a Lafayette Lion met the kids along the way.

Washington Elementary students met at the Safeway parking lot and walked to school from there. They met the school bus across the street at Ace Hardware and several students got off the bus and walked the rest of the way from Ace.

As a reminder, crossing guard training materials are available from public health for future/recurring events that will utilize crossing guards on Walk to School Days.

Redwood Mobility Education Program (RMEP) Overview: Mellody shared information on a new project called Redwood Mobility Education Program. The new funding source for Safe Routes to Schools is the Active Transportation Program. Humboldt County DHHS Public Health Branch received funding for the

Redwood Mobility Education Program for 3 years to work at Zane, Grant, Lafayette, and Alice Birney as target schools. The schools were selected based on income and health factors but the information can and will be shared with other schools.

The RMEP will promote physical activity by students through afterschool programs and incorporated into the school day. A toolkit for afterschool providers will be developed and presented in the spring of 2016. There will be support for Walk and Bike to School events, a physical activity pledge will be developed and a safety campaign and slogan will be created by students. The program also supports the Task Force, data collection, and the development of displays, media, and other outreach opportunities. Bike skills classes and clinics will be offered to students and adults and middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in civic engagement, a walk audit, data collection efforts, and a photo voice project.

Melanie shared photos of the Bike Rodeo she organized and led at the LatinoNet Health Fair on October 18th. She created a system where after registering for the Bike Rodeo, participants first were led on a tour of different bicycles for different commuting purposes, then shown a Safe Routes to School display before heading to the helmet fitting station and bicycle skills course.

Grant Elementary School Arrival/Dismissal Improvement Update: Both Martin and Debbie were absent from the meeting but Debbie sent a message to share with the Task Force about the new dismissal procedures at Grant. She said parents were very polite with the new changes and backup from vehicles really doesn't seem to be a problem. She said she has been seeing more people walking and there are quite a few other kids biking to school now. She said the bike rack was moved to inside the gate, which is great, and that they could use another bike rack at Grant.

Announcements:

- Public Health received brand new physical activity stencils to put marking on the ground with chalk that are available for agencies to use. They have arrows, a hopscotch, stop signals, etc.
- Tomorrow after the Countywide SRTS Task Force meeting, everyone is invited to view a webinar in the conference room called 'Planning for Active Design and Safety'.
- Paving will be taking place in front of Zane by the City of Eureka on Saturday.

Next Meeting Date:

November 17, 2015
11 am – noon
CWC Library
908 7th Street, Eureka