**SHSP Steering Committee Meeting, March 22, 2024**

**Education Session**

Facilitators: Mark Wall and Cliff Jacobs

**The following points were discussed/mentioned during the breakout session:**

* 4 people in the education session attend EAT meetings.
* Mark Wall asked the following question. How do we improve EAT meetings? Answer: Face to face is more constructive and it allows you to hear what others have to say. In-person allows for the exchange of great ideas. In-person allows you to feel like you can bring up new topics. Knowing the dates ahead of time is a plus. Overall, in-person meetings are preferred. Some like the virtual option. Location of in-person meeting is a factor, as well as time of the year the meeting is held.
* Social media platforms for training and education. More discussion groups v. power point presentations. How comfortable are people when it comes to speaking in from of an audience are factors that must be considered. The EAT should be an open space to share and exchange ideas, thoughts, and provide feedback.
* Create and establish a NO Fear Zone for EAT meetings. All communication is open and welcomed. This will lessen the fear some have about speaking and communicating in large groups.
* Crossover communication. What can MHSO do to promote, and encouragement cross over communication.
* Maybe have a topic specific meeting once a year (i.e., Brainstorming session). Maybe provide questions prior to the meeting so others can come prepared.
* Information overload. Condense the email communication partners, stakeholders, and individuals receive from MHSO. A simple 1-stop shop email that contains links for various resources.
* Emphasis Area Teams: MHSO cannot get rid of EAT. Possibly consider a comprehensive Highway Safety meeting to focus on everything highway safety related. Example: co-exists multiple areas. Subject area breakouts followed by a larger overall group meeting.
* Closed meetings v. open meetings. The Safe System approach is defined by open meetings. Not closing people off. Everyone has a voice and can provide valuable input. We all want safer roads for everyone. There is resource outside of these walls we must utilize. The is a huge opportunity for highway safety education.
* We must improve communication. There are state agencies who do not know what MHSO is doing or who we are.
* How do we attract and keep the attention of the younger audience (population).
* Time to pivot in our approach with schools. The youth (not all) are thinking highway safety if not that important. We must know our audience. Maybe we need to utilize youth who have been or are currently in the justice system? Must identify with persons who resemble you. Maybe Director Danner, Probation and Parole can lead this initiative. Montgomery County does a good job of holding the youth accountable by having them teach their peers. We must educate the educators!
* Senior citizens and new residents from other countries receive very little highway safety education. When new residents come to MD from other countries there is a shift in culture norms. Are their highway safety needs not being addressed?