



Thank you to those of you who were able to make the Statewide CPS meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. This memo is being sent to the original invite list to provide information regarding the items addressed in the meeting and to provide clarification. The power-point presentation shared is available on OHSO's website at [www.ohso.ok.gov](http://www.ohso.ok.gov) under the Child Passenger Safety tab.

The Oklahoma Highway Safety Office recently sent out a survey to existing and expired technicians and instructors. Based on the information gleaned from the survey data, there were three (3) areas of concern stated throughout the responses. In summary, these areas include:

1. **Lack of training and outreach**
2. **Certification and recertification processes, including cost, complexity, and CEUs**
3. **Lack of CRs for events**

In 2009, the OHSO administration began attempting to address a number of issues within the CPS program. These include reducing the amount of administrative costs spent on the program so that more CRs could be purchased/distributed and expanding services and outreach to rural communities. While we have seen some success with the implementation of those solutions, the economic climate is such that cost and time are still an issue among agencies statewide. To address these needs, OHSO will be implementing some new options within the existing CPS program. These include:

1. **Outreach** into the rural areas began during FFY2010 (Oct. 1, 2010). It is OHSO's intent to continue outreach into rural communities through police departments, fire departments, county health departments, the faith community, daycare providers and any other avenue that is available.
2. **Provide the National Child Passenger Safety Technician certification in 24 clock hours.** This is the minimum number of hours that NHTSA and Safe Kids Worldwide accept for technician certification. This has been piloted and was implemented successfully and can be done in 2 ways: 2- 10 hour days and a car seat check on the third day OR 2- 12 hour days including a car seat check at the end of the second day. Currently this course is taught in 4 days. To provide this level of training in an abbreviated time format (2-2.5 days), there are a few key things that are critical to moving through the content this quickly:
  - a. Students get their manuals prior to class.
  - b. Students informed of chapters that will only be "reviewed" (there are 3) and the need to study up on the glossary/terminology.
  - c. Minimize the number of stories/examples. Follow the curriculum; use a couple of examples and move on. This is particularly key for time management.
  - d. While the instructor up front is lecturing, the other instructor(s) have to know what activity to prepare.

- e. Have enough carseats available for installations, particularly seats with a higher weight limit (ie. Britax, Hippo, etc).
- f. Some of the activities with the vehicle occupant protection systems identification (Ch. 4-7) were combined into 1 trip outside to the vehicles. This reduced the amount of time going in and out to vehicles to look at 1 or 2 things at a time; instead, we gave the content for those chapters and then went outside and spent a significant amount of time looking at all of the OP protection systems in each vehicle.

Again, NHTSA and Safe Kids Worldwide requires that the National CPS curriculum be provided in a minimum of 24 clock hours, so this format reflects the requirements for National CPS certification. This agenda has been provided to CPS Instructors.

3. **Provide a State Certification option.** This includes Level 1 and Level 2 certification options.
  - a. Level 1: This is a 1-day beginner CPS course that will provide “bare bones” CPS information and hands-on skills. The curriculum for this has not been chosen, but we will be looking at the SNAP curriculum and the curriculum utilized for the current 1-day class. Currently, 1-day training is provided to individuals who work with DHS and the County Health Departments. This training already includes basic CPS information, hands-on skills and sometimes includes a car seat checkup event. Once State Certification is in place, for certification as a Level 1 technician, individuals will have to pass the class, including a 25 question written exam and 1 hands-on skills evaluation, which sets a minimum standard that currently doesn’t exist. We are also looking at a possible mentorship program, based on suggestions from those who attended the meeting. This level of certification would only be offered to those that work in the following professions: DHS, County Health Departments, Fire, EMS/medical personnel, and Police. Again, this is a beginner level of expertise in the field of CPS and all participants certified at this level will be instructed to provide services within the scope of their training and refer anything outside of their scope to a Level 2 Technician or a Nationally Certified CPS Technician. The cost of this class has not yet been determined, but will be at minimal cost to the agency/participant.
  - b. Level 2: This level of certification exactly mirrors the National CPS certification standard utilizing the NHTSA National CPS Curriculum. However, it will be offered at minimal cost to the participant and certification will only be recognized within the State of Oklahoma. This certification would **not** be beneficial to anyone who plans to provide CPS services outside of Oklahoma.
4. **Explore car seat distribution options.** Currently, car seats are distributed through Safe Kids Oklahoma, Tulsa Area Safe Kids and through a cooperative agreement with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) via County Health Departments (CHDs). As we continue expanding efforts to the rural areas, we will continue looking at the possibility of distributing car seats through permanent fitting stations that are actively involved in CPS in their respective communities and to communities that host a car seat check event.

5. **Details, Details, Details.** We are continuing to flesh out the details of the State Certification. If you have suggestions, please let us know. You may contact me directly at [smackey@dps.state.ok.us](mailto:smackey@dps.state.ok.us) or (405) 523-1577.