

# Establishing a Community Partnership: Child Passenger Safety

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Regions Hospital

**Jeremy Ellison, Commander**

Saint Paul Police Department

**Kat Brown, Commander**

Saint Paul Police Department



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*Level I Pediatric Trauma Center*

# Teamwork

## Regions Hospital/Shonette Micco

- Injury Prevention Supervisor at Regions Hospital
- Safe Kids Coalition Coordinator
- MN Office of Traffic Safety Hospital Liaison
- Active in Child Passenger Safety since 2006
  - instructor since 2008
- Regions Hospital has had a community-based car seat program since 2008
- Regions Hospital has had an inpatient car seat program since October 2019

## Saint Paul Police Department

- Cmdr. Jeremy Ellison & Cmdr. Kat Brown
  - TZD Grant Coordinators
- Cmdr. Julie Maidment & Sgt. Garaad Sahal
  - Community Partnerships Unit
  - Community Liaisons and Crime Prevention Specialists
- Sgt. Bobby Yang
  - Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Unit
  - Parking Enforcement Officers

# A Little History

- Regions Hospital has traditionally partnered with fire departments to hold community car seat clinics
- 2021 Saint Paul Police requested assistance for a family as part of a traffic citation. The four children were not in car seats.



# The Beginning of a New Partnership

*What if both organizations could support one another?*

- As a trauma center, our goal is to reduce preventable injury
  - Car crashes remain one of the top 3 causes of admission to the hospital across all age groups.
  - Proper use of car seats DOES make a difference by reducing injury severity, hospital admission rates and can prevent a fatality
  - Regions Hospital already had a robust car seat program
  - As a non-profit hospital and the sponsor site for a Safe Kids coalition, we are poised to apply for and receive grant funding to support injury prevention efforts

# The Beginning of a New Partnership

- The Saint Paul Police Department is committed to serving the community
  - Community Partnerships Unit
    - Focus on engagement & outreach
  - Toward Zero Deaths grant work
    - Focusing on speed, distracted, DWI, pedestrian, seat belts (including child restraints)
    - Partnership allows us to do more than just write a ticket to someone who may or may not have the resources to obtain a child seat for their vehicle. Officers and community members have had a huge benefit from this work

# Various Initiatives

## EARLY ATTEMPTS

- General awareness training on car seat safety
  - One session, but prompted interest from others
- Car seat certificates to hand to families identified during traffic stops
  - Was great when it worked, but generally low compliance

## CURRENT WORK

- Support SPPD staff to attend the Safe Kids CPS Tech Course
- Implement a Ride Along Program
- Host/Hold community car seat clinic events, with recruitment of families led by the SPPD Community Partnerships Unit



This certificate is good for 1 car seat or booster seat  
*\*height, weight, age, developmental level appropriate\**

To redeem contact Regions Hospital Car Seat Program to schedule an education appointment:  
Email: [CarSeatInfo@Healthpartners.com](mailto:CarSeatInfo@Healthpartners.com) or Call: 651-254-3564

- You must attend a scheduled education event
- The child must be present to receive the car seat, unless other arrangements are made with Regions Hospital.
- Car seat/booster seats are gender neutral and distributed as determined by Regions Hospital Car Seat Program.
- An appointment must be made ahead of time – bring this certificate with you to your education session.
- This certificate expires December 31, 2022. One time use only.

Save your appointment here: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

# Current Work, continued

## CPS Tech Training

- 21 SPPD employees trained
  - 10 PEO's
  - 5 from Community Partnerships
  - 6 sworn officers
- 8 more scheduled to train this month



A Program of  
Safe Kids Worldwide

## Ride-A-Longs (3-4 hour shift)

- 5 completed since starting June 2023
- Caregivers/Adults reached = 100
- Educational Encounters = 58
- Distributed car seats = 37
  - RF Only = 2
  - RF Convertible = 1
  - FF Convertible = 8
  - FF Combination = 6
  - Booster seat = 20





Images from the Ride Alongs





## Hosting Community Car Seat Clinic Events

- 9/12/2023: 21 seat checks; 4 seats distributed
  - 100% misuse
- 10/26/2023: 43 seat checks; 15 seats distributed
  - 75% misuse

# Future Plans

- Continue with community car seat clinics
  - Community Partnerships Unit poised to offer 1:1 seat checks at any time
- Continue to participate in ride-a-longs
  - NEXT EVENT: November 18, 2023 (National Injury Prevention Day)
- Continue CPST training
  - SPPD certified technicians can provide point of contact education and resource distribution at any time
- Regions Hospital is committed to support training efforts and resource acquisition
- Other ideas:
  - Department wide awareness training? In order to make referrals to the Community Partnerships Unit?
  - Citation forgiveness upon follow through with education?

# Recommendations for Others

- Take advantage of TZD funding and the Office of Traffic Safety's commitment to child passenger safety
- Obtain leadership support
- It should be a department wide effort
- Identify your local Safe Kids coalition
- Identify your local Trauma Center, connect with their injury prevention coordinator
- Start small and try it! Fine tune from there.
- Think sustainability. How to keep the work going despite attrition or turnover.



# THANK YOU!

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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