

Amarillo College Truck Driving Academy

Meeting Agenda

November 18, 2015

11:30-1:30

Type of Meeting: Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Rusty Dillon

Invitees: See attached sheet

- I. Call to order – Rusty Dillon
- II. Roll call – Rusty Dillon
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting - Approved
- IV. Open issues
 - a) Sgt. Chris Stephens from the DPS – Amarillo, TX gave a brief description of the areas he covers which is Dalhart, Tulia and Borger. He discussed what they look for or inspect when a truck driver is stopped: Weight, Log books, and making certain they are in compliance with the Federal Carrier Rules. The driver represents the Carrier, what the driver scores affects the carrier he works for. He approved of the syllabus that Amarillo College uses for training. He advised that drivers need to be drug tested. If drivers are not clean they need to get clean. Carriers should do a drugs test on their employees. Carriers that do a drug test will be better off. Employers may get desperate and hire anyone so it's best to do a drug test. Sgt Stephens said he would be glad to visit with our students to talk about what is expected of a driver. An issue also talked about is student behavior regarding radar detectors – they are not allowed in the trucks. Hand held cell phone use is not allowed. They will be stopped and cited. Carriers will get a bad mark for that driver's mistake. Anything the driver does reflect against the Carrier. Drivers need to be educated by the Carrier how to distribute weight in the trailers. Another issue is making sure the driver has all their paperwork in place. Pre-trip and post trip is extremely important. Carriers must be versed on all procedures. Carriers should maintain all equipment, keep up with hours of service and making sure logs are complete.
 - b) Don Cameron from the DPS Compliance – Amarillo, TX spoke also. He stated he would like for Carriers to call him if they had problem instead of him visiting the

carriers with bad news. Entry level drivers that completed a course at Amarillo College must have a certificate to prove they completed the class. Mike Hardie and Bob Mathews confirmed to Don that students that complete the course receive a certificate. He stated drivers are not doing a good job of pre-trip and post trip inspection. Drivers think it's no big deal to get a warning. Advised Carriers to have a policy in place regarding pre-trips and post trip inspections. Suggested giving drivers an incentive of gift cards or money to get drivers to do pre-trips and post trip inspections. If pre-trips and post trips are not done on a regular basis, the driver could run the equipment to the ground. Drill into the drivers head how important it is to do a pre-trip and post trip inspection. Intrastate drivers do not have a safety audit and because of that drivers have several fines. Pre-employment drug testing is very important, most Carriers do not drug test. If a driver is on drugs he may not care about taking care of the equipment. Local intrastate Carriers do not have a clue what the regulations are because they do not have a safety audit.

- c) Rusty. Gave introduction about TDA program. The goal of TDA is to produce a good student. AC will be doing drug testing on students.
- d) Bob Mathews thanked everyone for attending. TDA will take the recommendation of the DPS about pre-trip and post trip inspections and drug testing. Right now AC TDA has 17 tractors, 18 trailers, several buses and recently made a purchase for a cattle truck. Trainers are adjusting to the cattle truck. We have two campuses, Hereford and Dumas running steady with 4 students per class. Will look at the possibility of teaching the intrastate classes. Talked about TWIC- Transportation Worker Identification Credential – enables drivers to enter any maritime port unescorted. TDA class is now 6 weeks long, course went up on price but still the least expensive class. New drivers are being offered \$1000.00 a week starting. Stated that young students need basic education on how to use a bank account and basic financial skills (soft skills.) They need education on how to be a good employee. Graduates don't have problem finding a job. TDA needs students, need more recruitment. Trucking industry is short 40,000 drivers in the U.S. The average age of a driver is 54, will lose these drivers in 5 to 10 years to retirement. Our class is \$3650.00 for 6 weeks. Students graduating from our course have the potential to make a lot of money in a good profession. Announced that Robert Kennedy retired and Mike Hardie is now taking his position.
- e) Mike Hardie went over the syllabus with board members and attendees. Went over what information is being taught at the TDA.
- f) Janice Johnston – Director of DOL grant spoke about what is taught by the DOL in the first 2 days of class: Most student do not have basic skills. They are taught money management, time management, professionalism, critical thinking, problem

solving, are taught how to fill out job applications, resume' building, and interview skills.

- g) Mike Hardie went over the course offered by TDA – Master Operator Course and the addition of TWIC. In the new course advance skills are taught such as “S” baking, alley, backing, and logistical training.
 - h) Natalie Hardie updated everyone about simulator training. Students are taught advanced driving such as driving in the snow, rain, night conditions, and hazardous conditions, expect the unexpected, and how to prevent an accident.
 - i) Marisa Cochran asked how the Master Operator course would affect insurance rates. Rusty Dillon said they would research that.
 - j) Janice Johnston spoke about that TDA was the first program the DOL grant worked with. They recently entered their 4th and final year and are now on follow up evaluation. Judy Kelly will be sending online surveys to those that are present and stated that their feedback was very important. When they receive the surveys if they could approve and endorse the curriculum.
 - k) Dr. Vess – VP of Amarillo College thanked everyone for attending. Stated that our students are our best ambassadors and said TDA was an important program and brought a lot of revenue and has the biggest enrollment. If anyone had any question to please contact her.
- V. Adjournment: Charlie Sanchez asked all members when they should hold the next meeting. All agreed to meet again in 6 month. Meeting closed at 1:10 pm

Janice Roach
Staff assistant
Truck Driving Academy