



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Task Force Newsletter



Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation

Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs



Texas Impaired Driving Task Force
Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs
K-12th Grades

For the past 2 years, the TxIDTF Education Subcommittee has been working to compile a list, or reference book, of evidence-based alcohol and drug prevention programs. The goal was borne out of a recommendation that came from the 2015 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Impaired Driving Program Assessment. The recommendation was for the State to provide Texas schools with information about alcohol and drug prevention programs.

Initially, the project consisted of identifying evidence-based programs

that could be implemented in schools, but the conversation quickly turned to incorporating other successful programs that may not be evidence-based, as well as Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)-funded programs that are often offered free of cost.

In addition to these discussions, the Education Subcommittee strongly believed that school administrators and other decision-makers would only seriously consider implementing an alcohol or drug prevention program if it also covered TEKS, or Texas Essential

Knowledge and Skills. TEKS are state standards for what students should know and be able to do at certain grade levels.

And so, the Education Subcommittee -- with a herculean effort from **subcommittee chairman Nina Saint** -- set about aligning TEKS to each of the programs that are featured in the reference book.

After countless iterations and a mind-numbing number of edits -- the TxIDTF Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs, K-12 Grades has been completed! **Click the photo in this section to access the reference book online.**

The Education Subcommittee will be now promoting and distributing the book at regional school meetings, conferences, events, and other meet-ups.

All TxIDTF members will receive a hardcopy of the book at the October 2019 meeting.

If you would like to receive more copies of the book, or if you are interested in receiving promotional flyers, please email your request to [Amber Trueblood](#).

Please help us promote this resource in Texas!



Welcome!

Welcome to our new members who have joined the TxIDTF since August 2019:

Amy Calhoun

*Assistant Manager
Enforcement and Compliance Service
Texas Department of Public Safety*

Amy is replacing Cheryl Garren who retired May 2019.

Mark Vincent

*Sergeant
Irving Police Department*

Mark is replacing Jim Kuboviak, who retired September 2019.

Ashleigh Jons

*Retailer Education and Compliance
Analyst
Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission*

Ashleigh is replacing Mindy Caroll, who departed from TABC in August 2019.

Dr. Tara Karns-Wright

*Assistant Professor
UT Health Science Center San Antonio*

Tara is temporarily serving in Charles Mathias' place, as he serves a 1-year fellowship.

In addition to these individuals, we have had several other new members join over the summer. Please help us welcome everyone at the October 2019 meeting and help them acclimate to serving on the TxIDTF.

Member Updates

CONGRATULATIONS!

Beginning this month, **Dr. Charles Mathias** will be spending one year in Washington, D.C., working on health-related legislative and regulatory issues with members of Congress and the executive branch.



Dr. Mathias was selected as one of six health care professionals from across the country to participate in a prestigious 1-year fellowship. Named by the National Academy of Medicine and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to the 2019-2020 class of RWJF Health Policy Fellows, Dr. Mathias and co-fellows will get hands-on policy experience working with members of Congress and executive offices.

This is a prestigious learning experience that Dr. Mathias has been selected to participate in for the next year. On behalf of the TxIDTF, we wish him an incredible year of learning and experience.

To read the full announcement, [click here](#).

Dr. Mathias anticipates returning to the TxIDTF in October 2020.



After having served the State of Texas for 30 years -- 17 of which were served entirely with the TxDOT Behavioral Traffic Safety Section -- **Frank Saenz** retired at the end of June 2019. Over the years, Frank served as Program Manager for Police Traffic Services,

Motorcycle Safety, Occupant Protection, Safe Communities, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, Railroad, Traffic Records, Driver Education and Behavior, and Alcohol and Other Drug Countermeasures.

Under Frank's leadership as Alcohol and Other Drugs Program Manager, the State conducted two alcohol assessments, implemented a strong employer program, and developed and led the statewide impaired driving task force (TxIDTF). Frank left the TxIDTF in February 2018 when he took on the role of TxDOT Traffic Safety Driver Education and Behavior Program Manager.

On behalf of the TxIDTF, we want to thank Frank for the incredible work he has done for our Task Force and the State. We wish him well in his retirement and future ventures.

LAST CALL | SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR TEXAS IMPAIRED DRIVING SAFETY AWARDS

The deadline for Texas Impaired Driving Safety Award nominations is **September 30, 2019**. [Submit nominations here](#).

The work many of us do to reduce impaired driving in Texas is often a thankless and underappreciated job. **Help us recognize those individuals and organizations who go above and beyond** the call of duty to truly impact impaired driving by **nominating or encouraging them to submit a self-nomination** today!

Any individual/organization that works to reduce impaired driving in Texas and is not 100% funded by TxDOT grant(s) is eligible to be nominated. TxDOT employees are eligible for consideration, but their TxDOT work is considered ineligible.

Each nomination received is compared against that year's nomination pool. All nominations are considered for each of the three awards: Texas Impaired Driving Safety Champion, Texas Impaired Driving Difference Maker, and Honorable Mention. Only one individual/organization will be recognized as the Texas Impaired Driving Safety Champion; multiple can receive the Texas Impaired Driving Difference Maker and Honorable Mention awards.

Award recipients will be recognized and honored at the 2020 Texas Impaired Driving Forum on February 12, 2020 in San Marcos, TX. Honorable Mention award recipient(s) will be asked to stand at the Forum but will receive their certificate in the mail. Difference Maker award recipient(s) will be honored on stage with a plaque. The Safety Champion award recipient will be honored on stage with a glass award, and:

- Will be featured in a spotlight video played at the Forum
- Will have press releases sent to local media outlets
- Their Program Supervisor and City Mayor will be notified of achievement



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT VIDEO | LEADRS

LEADRS was founded in 2003 within the 10 largest counties in Texas. This specialized group included over 200 DREs, SFST Instructors, DWI Enforcement Officers, Prosecutors specializing in DWI cases, and DWI Defense Attorneys. Together they created a comprehensive DWI report that addressed all issues from Law Enforcement to Prosecutors while overcoming DWI defense challenges.

LEADRS was created and introduced to Texas Law Enforcement in 2004. Currently over 10,000 DWIs are processed with LEADRS every year in Texas.

LEADRS is a Law Enforcement Advanced DWI Reporting System. It is an internet-based DWI reporting system with no software to load and is completely FREE for agencies to use. LEADRS reporting questions were designed by Law Enforcement DWI experts, leading DWI prosecutors, and DWI defense attorneys to provide prosecution friendly DWI Case Report.



Click the LEADRS logo or [click here](#) to watch the member spotlight video.

Legislative Subcommittee Update

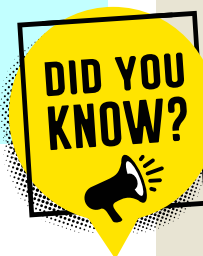
86th Texas Legislative Session

The TxIDTF Legislative Subcommittee has closely been monitoring and interpreting bills put forth during the 86th Texas Legislative Session, which was in session January - May 2019.

Since that time, the Subcommittee has been working to compile a list and interpretation of bills relevant to the TxIDTF. The finalized summary of bills was shared earlier this month with the TxIDTF and posted online.

If you missed the bill summaries, you can [read them here](#).

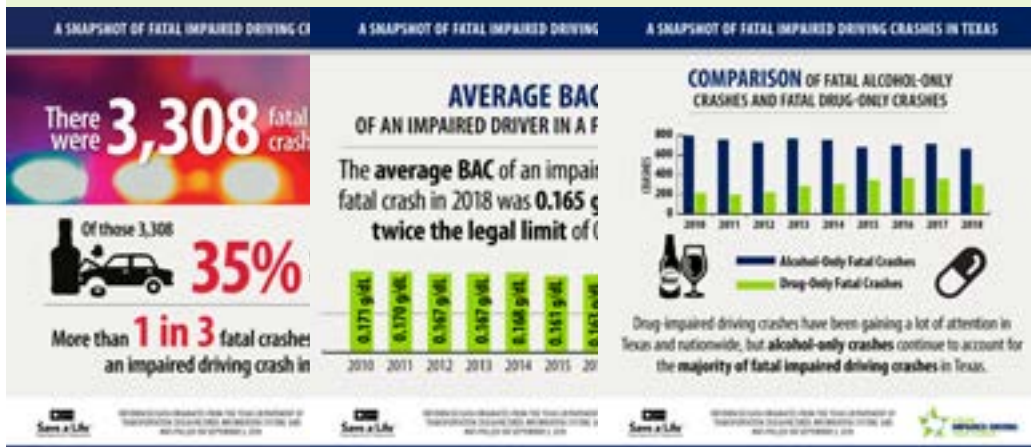
Subcommittee chairman Clay Abbott will be providing a oral summary and interpretation of new legislation at the October 2019 meeting.



Impaired Driving Crash Data Update

TxIDTF Administration has updated the impaired driving crash data infographic that was previously distributed in February 2019. The updated infographic now includes reportable crash data from 2018.

At the request of the Website Subcommittee, we've also deconstructed the infographic and optimized each segment so that it can stand alone as a social graphic. We are in the process of uploading the social graphics to the website and social media platforms, so that they are available for your download and further use. Below are a snapshots of some of the social graphics.



In 2020, TxDOT's Alcohol and Other Drug Countermeasure Program is undergoing the NHTSA Assessment.

The last time the NHTSA Impaired Driving Program Assessment was conducted in Texas was 2015. To remain eligible for federal funding, a state must undergo a program assessment every 5 years.

NHTSA facilitates the Assessment by bringing in an objective team of outside experts who hear testimony from impaired driving safety stakeholders about the strengths and weaknesses of, and challenges to the State's Impaired Driving Program.

At the end of the process, the Assessment Team develops a final report that includes a list of recommendations that the State may consider implementing in order to strengthen or improve its program.

For a copy of the 2015 Impaired Driving Program Assessment in Texas, [click here](#).

Please keep an eye out for further updates regarding the Assessment. Just like last time, it is likely that many TxIDTF members will be asked to participate in this process again.



- [2019 Wellness Workforce Summit](#)
September 26, 2019 | Plano
- [Our Driving Concern Drug Impairment Training for Texas Employers \(DITTE\)](#)
October 3, 2019 | Houston
- [Drug Impairment Training for Community Supervision and Parole Officers \(DITTCSPO\)](#)
October 15, 2019 | El Paso
- [Our Driving Concern Employer Transportation Safety Training](#)
October 15, 2019 | Webinar
- [Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement \(ARIDE\)](#)
October 16-17, 2019 | El Paso
- [Drug Recognition Expert \(DRE\) Recertification](#)
November 13, 2019 | Plano
- [Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals \(DITEP\)](#)
January 15, 2020 | Kilgore
- [2020 Texas Impaired Driving Forum](#)
February 12, 2020 | San Marcos
- [Lifesavers Conference](#)
March 15-17, 2020 | Tampa, FL
- [Texans Standing Tall 2020 Statewide Summit](#)
March 31 - April 1, 2020 | Austin
- [IACP Drugs, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving Conference](#)
August 6-8, 2020 | San Antonio
- [ATSIP International Traffic Records Forum](#)
August 9-12, 2020 | Nashville, TN

NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS



If you would like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to p-ericson@tti.tamu.edu by December 1, 2019.

Submissions are due the 1st of each newsletter month, and will be distributed:

- December 15
- March 15
- June 15
- September 15

