



## Texas Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting Meeting Minutes | February 13, 2020 at 9:30 AM

### WELCOME

- **New Members**
  - Jimmy Jackson, DPS Troopers Foundation. He is replacing Sgt. Mark Vincent.
  - (Absent due to illness) Tiffany Cunningham, UT Shift Program. She is replacing Kate Lower.
- **New Visitors**
  - Becky Walker, NHTSA
  - Tom Crawford – Dad and victim of DWI. He has worked with MADD in Austin
  - Christine Adams – Just relocated back to Texas from Nevada. Has been involved in impaired driving task forces in Nevada
- **Departing Members**
  - David Dorman, MADD
- **Membership Expertise Needs**
  - Will be discussed during the strategic planning session

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Zero Highway Traffic Fatalities Goal**
  - Texas Transportation Commission accepted this goal. Task Force discussion will be tabled until strategic discussion. Wants everyone to keep it in mind for later.
- **Crash Data**
  - Reviewed definition of impaired driving crash.
  - Paige demonstrated the internal tool that the TxIDTF Admin uses to meet outside technical assistance requests from impaired driving safety stakeholders.
  - Terry emphasized that TxDOT will provide crash data. All future crash data requests should be directed to TxDOT through [http://www.txdot.gov/apps-cg/crash\\_records/form.htm](http://www.txdot.gov/apps-cg/crash_records/form.htm).
- **Impaired Driving Crash (Under)Reporting**
  - There is some concern that impaired driving crashes are underreported by law enforcement.
  - Some law enforcement in attendance stated that there are issues with agencies getting crash reports updated to reflect toxicology results and being notified by hospitals about fatal injury outcomes. However, a consensus said law enforcement agencies (LEAs) need to develop internal processes to address these issues. LEA administrators will often look up the received blood work and will submit the ones related to a crash back to the crash investigator or supervisor for a supplement.

- DRE has a process for identifying unsubmitted toxicology results. Perhaps TxDOT could have a similar process to let LE know if they have missing toxicology results.
  - It would be helpful if TxDOT CRASH would allow administrators to filter agency crash reports by those that are missing toxicology results.
- Brian spoke about LEADRS and indicated they are missing 40,000 toxicology results in their system. LEADRS has begun submitting reminders to LE. LEADRS may send an open records request to the DPS crime lab and update the results themselves.
- **Updating Texas Impaired Driving Plan**
  - Reviewed timelines for updating the 2020 Texas Impaired Driving Plan. As a reminder, the plan is the State's qualifying application for 405(d) federal funding. The plan must be approved by every task force member.
  - The timeline for updating the plan is:
    - Now – Feb. 29: Clay's legislative review
    - March 1 – 31: Admin's gathering/collecting review
    - April 1 – 15: TxIDTF's review and comment
    - April 15 – 30: Admin's revisions and review
    - May 1 – 8: TxIDTF's 2<sup>nd</sup> review and comment → FINAL CHANCE FOR REVISIONS
    - May 11 – 15: Admin's final organization
    - May 18 – June 1: TxIDTF Plan Approval (Electronic Signatures from every member must be obtained)
  - Reminder that if you will be out of the office during the critical time periods, please review the plan early and sign it. Every member's signature is needed for the plan to be approved and included in the State's Highway Safety Plan.
  - May 8<sup>th</sup> is the final date for members to submit revisions to the plan.
- **2020 NHTSA Impaired Driving Program Assessment**
  - Official dates have been set for August 17-21, 2020
  - Location is TBD. Last assessment was in Austin. Likely this one will be as well.
  - Many members will be asked to participate and provide testimony in their area of expertise.
  - Terry – Great opportunity is for us to identify where we are at and where we should go. This includes recommendations to the legislature. The assessment team can make legislative recommendations that the task force and state employees cannot.

## TXDOT UPDATE

- **Allison Rounsavall**
  - Thanked all the individual programs supporting the alcohol program. Asked the TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialists (TSS) for feedback on the alcohol program.
    - Tyler TSS thanked Lisa Robinson's program
    - Tyler TSS thanked MADD.
    - Yoakum TSS thanked Mark Busbee's program.
    - Yoakum TSS thanked TTI and the TxIDTF.
    - Odessa TSS thanked the RED Program.
    - Lubbock TSS thanked all of the programs that have been to Lubbock.

- Many others were thanked. Just wanted to acknowledge everyone and make sure everyone knew their efforts are appreciated.
- **Terry Pence**
  - Gave proposal update. Indicated there were more submissions than funding, which is normal. Saw the biggest increase in the STEP grant area. Scoring on proposals will begin soon.
  - Negotiations will begin after scoring and be finished by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Will go to TxDOT Commission in May. Will get Texas Highway Safety Plan submitted to NHTSA by July 1.
  - Thanked everyone that was involved in the previous year's audits.
  - Updated the Traffic Safety Policies and Procedures Manual, which is [on the website](#).
- **Lisa Johnson**
  - Reminded everyone the Motorcycle Forum is next week and invited everyone to attend.
- **Marsha Scott**
  - On-site monitoring will begin soon.

## SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Legislative – Clay Abbott**
  - Non legislative year
  - Senate Committee on Transportation will be meeting on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and topics include impaired driving.
  - There is work on a bill, which is being championed by Montgomery County and Andrew, that will seek to track intoxication manslaughter the same way capital murder is tracked.
  - Tracking a bill that will allow WebEx testimony.
  - Clay also reported briefly on the DWI Prosecutor's Task Force. DWI Prosecutor's Task Force does support laboratory testing of oral fluids for drugs which would be admissible in court. Prosecutor's Task Force still opposes roadside testing.
- **Education – Amber Trueblood (TTI Admin)**
  - The reference book is a living document and will be updated in 2020.
  - The subcommittee is accepting feedback and revisions from members.
  - Feedback from schools is the book is "overwhelming," but contains good information.
  - Subcommittee is looking for ways to streamline the book. Perhaps a quick summary book and the full reference book.
  - They have plenty of books, so please take some and distribute them.
    - All books have since been distributed. New iterations are expected this summer.
  - Troy thanked everyone on the subcommittee who contributed to creating the book.
- **Website – Cinthya Roberto (TTI Admin)**
  - Chair David Dormon has departed the TxIDTF. He was working on a document of how members communicate with each other.
  - Since he is gone, the subcommittee will be reassessing and is actively looking for a new chairman.

- **Awards Selection – Lisa Robinson**
  - Awards ceremony was yesterday. Went well.
  - Will be giving the task force an update on nominees in October.
  - Goal is to diversify nominees to make sure all stakeholder areas (LE, probation, treatment, outreach, etc.) are represented by the nominees.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

- TxIDTF was asked to think strategically and to think of the TxIDTF as a whole and not just their organizations. Paige asked TxIDTF to reevaluate its purpose through a live poll.
- Members overwhelmingly voted that the purpose of the TxIDTF should be to make recommendations to reduce impaired driving. However, the TxIDTF does not currently do this.
- Members supported and showed concern for such a change:
  - Texas has done a great job of bringing a diverse group of stakeholders together. But, because we are such a diverse group of stakeholders, we may only end up taking a position on 1 or 2 things that everyone can agree on.
    - Many people in the room do not have the authority to take a formal stance on any developed recommendations
  - New legislators are interested in data. For those who can speak with legislators, we need to know data. With other state task forces, legislators are members who attend the meetings and who then can push legislation. This is a different structure. The TX Legislature is unaware of us, so maybe there is a chance to inform them.
    - After the 2015 Assessment, the TxIDTF wrote letters to the Texas Transportation Commission supporting the creation of a Governor’s Task Force. The Commission recommended the creation of such a task force, but ultimately it did not pass.
  - Focus should be on behavior change. We are doing a lot and may not always realize how much we do.
  - Perhaps it would be helpful to have a history of things we have done. We would need a subcommittee structure that is tasked to meet more often to push any recommendations and information.
  - The TxIDTF has been doing things, but it is not always the “in your face” things that we view as progress. Some big things require political capital and move slow. The website is something tangible we have done. Would be interesting to see how many hits the website is getting and to see what we can do to advertise the website. Making recommendations would be good, but there are concerns since we have so many opinions. The Task Force needs to define “what moving the needle forward,” means.
  - Researchers often have lots of information, but do not always know how to distribute it. Maybe a subcommittee to help guide members how to get information out would be helpful.
  - The group was asked to raise their hand if the task force is helping people in their jobs. Many people raised their hands.

- For example, Clay no longer tries cases, so he “is not directly moving the ball forward.” But, he trains people who move the ball forward and has a bigger impact that way. The task force is similar. It does not directly move the ball forward, but it helps others move the ball forward.
  - A question was asked about if there a metric to measure it?
  - The group was asked “how many people have used an infographic or legislative summary?” Many people raised their hands.
    - A critical piece the Task Force produces is the Impaired Driving Plan because it relates to funding. The task force leads that effort.
- A question was asked about how subcommittee members are determined.
  - Paige – There is no formal protocol. Anyone is free to join a subcommittee. Subcommittee members determine the chair.
- A question was asked about the role of members who are not serving on subcommittees.
  - These individuals take task force information and disseminate it through their network.
  - A question was asked about how we show the work people are doing.
- A comment was made about the TxIDTF website and infographics being helpful, and it was one of the first things they clicked on when they joined the task force. If legislators were given the data, they will come to us asking for recommendations instead of us just giving recommendations to them. But we need for the legislators to know who we are.
  - A comment was made that when we disseminate information, it is through our member agencies – not through the Task Force. No one knows our name.
  - Informing the legislature has to begin now because once they are in session it is too late.
- TxDOT was asked if we can invite legislators to the Task Force to see presentations.
  - Terry indicated it would have to go through the TxDOT Legislative Affairs group, but it is feasible.

## Voting Issues

- Paige asked the TxIDTF to vote on several issues. After some initial discussion, all voting issues were tabled until the October 2020 meeting to give members time to consider each issue.
- The voting and discussion issues at the next meeting will be:
  1. **What is the purpose of the TxIDTF?**
    - **Currently:** The primary purpose of the TxIDTF has been to update and maintain the Texas Impaired Driving Plan which serves as the qualifying application for federal 405(d) funding. The TxIDTF has also served in advisory capacity to the TxDOT Alcohol and Other Drug Countermeasures Program Area.
    - **Considerations:** Examples of the purpose other state task forces serve are:
      - To identify specific impaired-driving problems in the State (i.e., problem identification).
      - To make recommendations to reduce impaired driving in the State.

- To identify and overcome obstacles impeding effective countermeasures in the State.
- To identify and address any unintended consequences that may result from proposed actions.
- To provide a network of communication and cooperation among the various stakeholders.

**2. Should the TxIDTF adopt a Zero Highway Fatalities by 2050 goal?**

- **Currently:** The TxIDTF has not adopted any Vision 0 / Toward 0 Highway Fatalities goals.
- **Considerations:**
  - The Texas Transportation Commission formally adopted this goal in 2019. Hundreds of organizations and cities have also adopted similar Vision 0 / Toward 0 Highway Fatalities framework. Alternatively, is this a realistic, achievable goal?

**3. What is the ideal member size of the TxIDTF?**

- **Currently:** 43 members
- **Considerations:**
  - Most state impaired driving task forces are approximately 20 members. Texas is a large and diverse state and it's important that that diversity is reflected in membership. Alternatively, larger task forces can become unwieldy, and can be difficult to manage and conduct effective meetings/activities.

**4. Keeping in mind the purpose and ideal size of the TxIDTF, what are our membership needs (if any)?**

- **Currently:** Attached is a current list of the TxIDTF membership
- **Considerations:** Does the current membership reflect what is needed to “move the needle forward?” If not, what membership expertise is missing? Examples:
  - Probation
  - Treatment/Medical
  - TxDOT Crash Analysis Representative
  - Legislators or Legislative Staff/Aids
  - Faith and private sector representatives
  - Transportation network companies (Uber/Lyft)
  - Marijuana industry representative
  - Alcohol industry representative
  - Restaurant industry representative

**5. Should the TxIDTF Charter be amended to name permanent positions?**

- **Currently:** Charter is [found here](#). There are no permanent positions listed other than the Co-Chairmen (currently Troy & Allison), the Administrator (Paige), and the Administration (TTI staff)

- **Considerations:** Naming permanent positions would mean that individuals serving in certain positions/agencies shall be represented on the TxIDTF.
6. **How should new members be brought onto the TxIDTF?** (i.e., do we need a formal nomination and approval process?)
- **Currently:** The TxIDTF operates under a “closed membership.” Only those individuals with backgrounds not reflected through current membership are actively recruited. When a member recommends a leader who can fill this gap, the TxIDTF Admin reaches out to them with an invitation to join. If they accept, they are automatically brought on to serve. And, with no formal procedure in place, departing members have been naming their successors and bringing them on to serve.
  - **Considerations:** Establishing a protocol would be in the interest of transparency and eschewing the perception of favoritism. Alternatively, protocol may be seen as an unnecessary complication.
7. **Should the TxIDTF meet for shorter, but more frequent occasions?**
- **Currently:** The TxIDTF meets 2 times a year (October and February)
  - **Considerations:** Most state impaired driving task forces meet more regularly. This varies from meeting quarterly to meeting every month. Meeting regularly helps members stay up to date with upcoming events/changes, etc. If the TxIDTF voted to meet more regularly, it would be to meet 3 times a year.
8. **Should the TxIDTF Admin stop sending missed meeting reminders?**
- **Currently:** The TxIDTF Admin sends members “missed meeting” notifications. After 2 consecutive missed meetings, members are considered “inactive” and can have their membership removed.
  - **Considerations:** Members already know when they miss a meeting, and many members notify Admin of their upcoming absence ahead of time. Alternatively, some members may find the notifications helpful.
9. **What should the role of the TxIDTF Admin? What do you need from the TxIDTF Admin?**
- **Currently:** The TxIDTF Admin schedules, facilitates, and generates/maintains content for the TxIDTF meetings, subcommittee meetings and associated goals/activities, the Texas Impaired Driving Plan, the Texas Impaired Driving Forum, community coalition visits and presentations, website and social media platforms, infographics, newsletters, and responds to technical assistance requests. This year, the TxIDTF Admin is facilitating the 2020 NHTSA Impaired Driving Program Assessment.
  - **Considerations:** Must work within the TxIDTF safety grant to meet the needs of members. The TxIDTF and Admin are unable to lobby. The Admin staff’s time is divided among several highway safety programs.

## 10. What should the role of TxDOT be? What do you need from TxDOT?

- **Currently:** TxDOT continues to support the TxIDTF through a highway safety grant. TxDOT provides program updates at TxIDTF meetings, participates in the Forum and subcommittee meetings, provides technical assistance (i.e., crash data requests), and ensures that the Texas Impaired Driving Plan is submitted to NHTSA as part of the state's Highway Safety Plan.
- **Considerations:** TxDOT is unable to lobby. TxDOT Behavioral Traffic Safety section oversees hundreds of highway safety grants, and its staff time is divided respectively.

## LIGHTNING ROUND DISCUSSION

- **LEADRS – Brian**
  - Recently hired a data analyst to look through their data.
  - Agencies can compare to other agencies or even analyze specific officers.
  - Asked the question if LEADRS impacts DWI enforcement? New LEADRS agencies do more DWI enforcement.
  - Looked at officer data. Most productive officers were DRE or ARIDE trained or SFST instructors.
  - Provided handout with additional data and information.
- **Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth – Nicole**
  - 2020 Statewide Summit to Create Healthier and Safer Communities is coming up. Out of state speakers and scholarships available to attend.
  - Additional [details here](#).
- **Troy**
  - Reminded everyone we can also add event info on the website.
- Everyone went around and briefly introduced themselves

## NEXT MEETING:

**Thursday, October 8, 2020 | 9:30 AM**

Norris Conference Center  
2525 W Anderson Lane, #365  
Austin, TX 78757

## ACTION ITEMS

- **List of Achievements** - Admin will compile a list of "TxIDTF accomplishments" that will be ready in time for the October 2020 meeting.
- **Internal Evaluation Metrics** – Admin will compile an internal evaluation tool to gauge the utility of the TxIDTF for members. This will help us establish baseline data about things we're doing well and things we need to improve upon.



- **Research Subcommittee** – Anyone interested in serving on the Research Subcommittee, please email [p-ericson@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:p-ericson@tti.tamu.edu) by March 6. As discussed at the meeting, the Research Subcommittee will review, discuss, and summarize recent scholarly articles concerning alcohol and/or drug impairment and research. The subcommittee will provide a brief summary of reviewed research to the larger TxIDTF so that members will understand the strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of recent impaired driving-related research. That way, members will have the knowledge and confidence to speak intelligently about these items, if asked.
  
- **Other Subcommittees** – If anyone would like to join any of the other subcommittees, please reach out to the following people:
  - **Education** – Nina Saint, [njsaint@safewaydriving.com](mailto:njsaint@safewaydriving.com)
  - **Awards Selection** – Lisa Robinson, [lisa.robinson@nsc.org](mailto:lisa.robinson@nsc.org)
  - **Legislative** – Clay Abbott, [clay.abbott@tdcaa.com](mailto:clay.abbott@tdcaa.com)
  - **Website** – Cinthya Roberto, [c-sroberto@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:c-sroberto@tti.tamu.edu)
    - This subcommittee is searching for a new chairmen
  
- **Voting Items** – Members are asked to come prepared to vote on the above referenced items.