



## Texas Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting Meeting Minutes | October 14, 2021 at 9:00 AM

### WELCOME – Christine Adams & Troy Walden

- Christine Adams and Troy Walden welcomed everyone to the virtual TxIDTF meeting
- Introduce New Members :
  - Jackie Ipina (MADD): Replacing David Dorman as the MADD State Program Manager
  - Sherri Robelia (TxDOT): Sherri is retiring in November and Ruby Martinez will be replacing her as the TxDOT Behavioral Traffic Safety Program Manager
    - Welcome Ruby!
  - Liz Wilde (Sherry Matthews Group): Statewide Impaired Driving Campaign
  - Dannell Thomas (ESC-6): Dannell is returning to Education Service Center - Region 6
  - Cindy Leonard (NSC): Replacing Lisa Robinson with National Safety Council
  - Cecil Marquart retired after 43 years of service to Sam Houston State
  - Carlos Champion (Texas DRE Program): New DRE coordinator
  - Mike Jennings moved from Austin PD to Williamson County Attorney's Office
  - Missy Williams is a guest standing in for David McGarah with Texas SFST
- The TxIDTF is working to be more involved in more rural/underserved areas
  - [Infographics ranking cities with most alcohol-impaired KA crashes per population](#)
  - Presented alcohol-impaired driving data in Amarillo at "Be a Hero" event
  - Abilene presentation at Community Forum in November
- Troy briefly presented national [impaired-driving data before and during the COVID-19 public health emergency](#)

### NEW BUSINESS – Christine Adams

- **2020 Alcohol Impaired Driving Data**
  - Posted to TxDOT website: [https://ftp.txdot.gov/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash\\_statistics/2020/01.pdf](https://ftp.txdot.gov/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash_statistics/2020/01.pdf)
  - There were 958 people killed where a driver was under the influence of alcohol
    - 25% of the total number of people killed in motor vehicle crashes
    - 5% increase from the number of fatalities caused by alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2019 (914 fatalities)
- **2022 Texas Impaired Driving Forum**
  - Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, the 2022 Forum will be held virtually
  - The format will be similar to last year, except the breakout sessions will be extended to 1 hour, and there will be an opportunity for networking during lunch
  - Date is still TBD but aiming for February date, as in previous years
- **2021 Impaired Driving Technical Assessment**
  - Was postponed from FY 2020/2021 to FY 2022
  - Tentative date is August 15-19, 2022
- **FY 2022 Conducting 3 TxIDTF Meetings**
  - FY 22 meetings scheduled for October, February, and June
    - October and February will be held virtually, and the June meeting will (hopefully) be in-person

## **TXDOT UPDATE – Allison Rounsavall**

- FY 22 funded projects: Over \$50 million in funding for our Texas Traffic Safety Program which includes grants and media campaigns. Our Alcohol and Other Drugs Countermeasures program area received over \$15 million which includes grants and media campaigns.
- 41 law enforcement agencies will be participating in our FY22 Impaired Driving Mobilization project. The purpose of this mobilization is to conduct high-visibility saturation patrols within the Enforcement Zones. Enforcement zones are identified through the use of crash data from that jurisdiction. The expectation is that the agency patrol for four days between the hours of 6p-6a, Monday-Sunday during the enforcement periods. The enforcement periods are also known as “waves” and are centered around the holidays in which impaired driving is an increased risk. Our first wave of enforcement will run December 17 through January 1 and will satisfy the Christmas/new Year’s Wave. Other holidays include Spring Break, Independence Day and Labor Day. Law enforcement agencies must also perform pre-enforcement earned-media campaigns for each enforcement period.
- The FY 23 Requests for Proposals is planned to open around Friday, November 5. This is currently our tentative date and relies on if the RFP is posted on time. Our annual RFP training and Q&A session will be on Wednesday, November 17.
- We have revised our Project Celebration program to a statewide PSA contest. Each Traffic Safety Specialist from all 25 TxDOT districts across the state will encourage their area high schools to create and submit an impaired driving awareness Public Service Announcement. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner from each of the TxDOT district contests will then compete for placement as the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place statewide winners. Texas high schools are encouraged to participate in this competition.
- Due to COVID-19, we postponed our impaired driving assessment not once but twice. We were aiming at conducting one in FY20 but travel restrictions due to COVID caused us to postpone until FY21. Then again in FY21, we were not able to make it happen due to the resurgence of COVID. We are currently planning to conduct the long-awaited Impaired Driving Assessment this fiscal year. The assessment will be conducted August 15-19. We have not conducted an assessment since FY 2015, and we are looking forward to it and its results. This assessment will help us determine best practices and also mold and shape how we move forward with the Texas alcohol program.
- Congratulations to our new DRE, ARIDE and DITEP agency, Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA). They have been awarded these programs for FY22. David McGarah remains our Texas SFST coordinator but will also be over both DITEP and ARIDE. And please welcome our new Texas DRE Coordinator, Carlos Champion.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

- **Legislative Subcommittee – Clay Abbott**
  - Clay reviewed the [87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bill Summaries Report](#)
    - You can find this report on the TxIDTF website (also distributed via email)
    - Randy will be adding one more bill summary that was passed during the special session – be on the lookout for the addendum
  - Please use and share this amazing resource!
- **Education Subcommittee – Dannell Thomas**

- New iteration of school reference book was finished last year and is available. A condensed version is also available. You can find both version on the [TxIDTF website](#).
- Dannell reviewed some of the updates to the reference book, including 7 new evidence-based programs.
- The subcommittee has done a great job promoting the book and many schools have inquired about the programs in the book. Keep sharing this great resource!
- Hard copies of the reference book were mailed to all superintendents in Texas.
- Future activities: a community-based reference book, track the impact of the reference book (i.e. number of requests for program information, number of school administrators/staff viewing the book online).
- **Awards Selection Subcommittee – Christine Adams**
  - With Lisa Robinson’s departure, Dottie McDonald has accepted the chairperson position
  - Christine reviewed the recommendations for award recipients and asked the TxIDTF to accept the award recommendations (or object).
    - No objects were heard, so we will move forward with the recommended award recipients
  - Please keep all award recipients in confidence until the Forum.
  - TxIDTF Admin will work in conjunction with Awards Subcommittee to notify nominators and move on with next steps.
- **Research Subcommittee – Tara Karnes-Wright**
  - Tara reviewed findings from the two reviewed articles/papers. Findings were previously shared with TxIDTF via email. These reviews can be found on the website.
    - [Cannabis Detection Methods](#)
    - [Therapeutic and Toxic Blood Concentrations](#)
  - The subcommittee is in the process of reviewing another article.
  - TxIDTF Admin will set up a survey for the task force to share reports, peer and non-peered reviewed articles/journals, international sources, etc. for the research subcommittee to review.
- **Drug-Impaired Driving Subcommittee – Nicole Holt**
  - Relatively new group. The subcommittee is still working to establish goals and a focus.
  - The past two meeting have been focused on identifying drug-impaired driving data and gaps that currently exist.

**GROUP DISCUSSION: Round Table Discussion: FY 22 Project/Program Updates**

- Clay Abbott (TDCAA)
  - Continue educational programs (20 regional programs)
  - Reach out to Clay if you need a prosecutor to present
- Bobbi Brooks (AgriLife Extension)
  - Continuing the Watch UR BAC program
  - If you are interested in “When Sean Speaks” – please reach out to Bobbi
- Mark Busbee (TMPA)
  - Offering DITEP and FRIDAY/ADPAT programs
  - 1-day refresher course and 2-day training
- Carlos Champion (Texas DRE Program)
  - Website: <https://texasdre.org>
  - 3 planned DRE schools in FY 22 – San Antonio (February), DFW (TBD), and Harris County (July)

- 3 DRE recertification courses in November: Coppell, Round Rock, and Harris
  - Hired one staff instructor for all DRE schools to improve consistency: Mark Vincent
  - Pilot program – agencies can pay DREs to conduct evaluations on their behalf
- Chad Cooley (Cedar Hill PD)
  - STEP grantee
- Holly Doran & Judge Weiser (TCJ)
  - DWI resource courses available (23 presentations)
  - Virtual “lunch and learn” series with various court houses
- Brian Grubbs (LEADRS)
  - DWI online reporting system for officers to process a DWI arrest
  - Record usage in 2021
  - Expanding data analysis to include toxicology and case disposition
  - Working on making data directly available to all Law Enforcement Agencies
  - Working on online DRE evaluations – improve efficiency
- Kevin Harris (College Station PD)
  - STEP grantee
  - There are less experienced patrol officers (<3 years), so they are trying to increase trainings for their officers (i.e. ARIDE, SFST)
- Nicole Holt (TxSDY)
  - Continuing on with normal grant activities
  - Focus on social host parties and greater access to alcohol (i.e. alcohol to go bill)
  - Check out resources on their website <https://txsdy.org/resources/>
  - TxSDY is hosting a Regional Forum in partnership with the Abilene Recovery Council and local coalition. If you know folks in the Abilene area that would like to attend - this is the information and registration link. <https://web.cvent.com/event/d8291948-92b8-4339-8264-dfbbf254caa3/summary>
- Jackie Ipina (MADD)
  - MADD’s Take the Wheel Initiative is in 6 Target Areas: North (DFW), East (Tyler), Central (Austin), Southeast (Houston), South (Rio Grande Valley), South (San Antonio)
  - Continuing community outreach, including a roundtable discussion with judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and community partners
  - Underage drinking prevention programs (Power of Youth & Power of Parents)
  - New this year is a Virtual Statewide Town Hall
    - Focuses on candid conversation led by state experts that will address current questions and answers regarding impaired driving
    - Please reach out if anyone wants to collaborate with us for this event, most likely taking place in the spring (leading up to Alcohol Awareness month)
- Andrew James (Montgomery Co. DAO)
  - Continuing the no refusal program
- Mike Jennings (Williamson Co. CAO)
  - Mike has left Austin PD and is now an investigator for Williamson County
- Ashleigh Jons (TABC)
  - TRACE Team continues to focus on source investigations and retailer accountability
  - Continued to focus on working special events including the rodeo, Labor Day events, State Fair and ACL utilizing overtime funds provided through the TxDOT grant funds
  - In the process of writing new grant proposal that will allow for enhanced virtual learning opportunities for retailer education and community outreach

- Tara Karns-Wright (UT Health Science Center – San Antonio)
  - Substance Abuse Recovery Services:
    - Virtual On-Demand Substance Use Services for no pay, self-pay, insurance pay: <https://bewelltexasclinic.org/>
    - Self-screening, digital recovery peer support and links to treatment: <https://recoverytexas.org/>
  - Running two clinical trials on stimulants: methamphetamine and cocaine
- Cindy Leonard (NSC)
  - Continuing programs targeting employers
- Sarah Martinez (Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Program)
  - Continuing underage drinking education/presentations in Travis, Hays, and Williamson Counties
    - Educational outreach being held virtually due to COVID
- Dottie McDonald (Smart Start)
  - Transdermal wristwatch and new portable device
- Missy Williams in place of David McGarah (TX SFST)
  - Hosting 10 courses free of charge, thanks to funding by TxDOT
  - Supporting agencies in underserved counties and STEP grant recipients
  - DITEP refresher course and 2-day full course
- Ned Minevitz (TMCEC)
  - Continuing to produce traffic safety resources and conduct trainings
  - Provided legislative updates to 900 judges; 1 of 7 hours focused on impaired driving
- Lisa Minjares-Kyle (TTI)
  - Continuing Teens in the Driver Seat and U in the Driver Seat
  - Symposium targeting college students to be held in April 2022 – please reach out to Lisa if you are interested in presenting
- Amy Moser & Dannel Thomas (ESC-6)
  - Continuing previous TxDOT grants (“AD-A-STEP” for Life)
  - Shared school bus safety program, lunch and learns, and Red Ribbon Week
- Anna Mudd & James Tedder (DPS – Crime Labs)
  - Drug positive toxicology increased since pandemic, not the same for alcohol
  - Continuing breath alcohol testing program
    - Teaching online classes all over Texas (previously all classes were in Austin at DPS) – allows them to reach more people (800 officers last year)
  - Working on setting up contracts with counties for DPS forensic scientists
- David Palmer (DPS)
  - STEP grantee (8 counties)
  - Noted that resources are strained due to the issues at the Texas border
- Nina Saint (SafeWay Driving System)
  - Offering a alcohol and drug awareness program within their driver education course
- Randy Sarosdy (TJCTC)
  - Continuing to provide education to Justices of the Peace, court clerks, constables, etc.
  - Combination of virtual and in-person trainings
    - Expanded online resources during COVID
  - 5 available programs for judges, including impaired driving classes related to juvenile cases and occupational driver’s licenses

- DWI bond condition education – roundtable discussion with criminal justice professionals who are involved with setting, monitoring, and enforcing DWI bond conditions (35 counties)
  - Goal is to improve consistency
- Kara Thorp (AAA)
  - Continue to produce educational materials and presentations (Dare to Prepare)
  - Working on resources for the DRE program
- Liz Wilde (Sherry Mathews Group)
  - “Drive Sober, No Regrets” Campaign – testimonials on the consequences of a DWI
  - <https://www.soberrides.org/media-center/>

### **CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT**

- Troy thanked the subcommittees for all the hard work that they do produce resources for the task force and greater traffic safety community.
- The Letter of Commitment for FY 22 will be sent out on Monday. Please think long and hard on if you have the time to be an active participant (i.e. respond to emails promptly, help with tasks when asked, sign/review documents in a timely manner).
- Next TxIDTF Meeting: TBA February 2022 | Virtual Meeting @ 9:00 AM

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- TxIDTF Admin to:
  - Distribute draft meeting minutes
  - Share resources that the TxIDTF has produced this past year
  - Send calendar meeting invite for next meeting by 11/30
  - Develop survey/form for TxIDTF members to suggest research topics/articles, reports, ect.
  - Provide updates concerning Assessment (Anticipated August 2022)
- TxIDTF Members to:
  - Review the meeting minutes and send revisions to TxIDTF Admin by 10/22
  - Review and sign Letter of Commitment by 11/1
  - Suggest discussion topics of the February 2022 TxIDTF meeting
  - Anticipate TxDOT RFP to be released in Texas Register in early-to-mid-November
  - Awards Subcommittee
    - Notify nominees of award status by 11/30 (TxIDTF Admin)
    - Draft Press release, develop congratulatory letters, film spotlight video by February 2021 (TxIDTF Admin)
  - Legislative Subcommittee
    - Post 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature Bill Summaries to TxIDTF website (TxIDTF Admin)
    - Draft and approve addendum
  - Research Subcommittee
    - Review current article by 11/19
    - Send articles for review that you’d like Subcommittee to consider
  - Education Subcommittee

- Begin working on new iteration of full reference book for FY 2022
- Schedule meeting to discuss tracking the impact of the reference book, changes to existing book format/content, and the development of a community-based book