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## Meeting Minutes

### Welcome Introductions - Troy Walden & Christine Adams

- Christine Adams and Troy Walden welcomed everyone to the virtual TxIDTF meeting
- Introduce New Members :
  - Brittany Hansford, Montgomery Co. Vehicular Crimes Chief: Replacing Andrew James on the TxIDTF as well as the Research and Drug Impaired Driving Subcommittees
  - Larry Krantz, TxDOT: STEP and Criminal Justice grants Program Manager. Larry has also joined the Drug Impaired Driving Subcommittee
  - Garrett Hager, TxDOT: Alcohol and Other Drug Program Manager

### New Business

- **2022 Impaired Driving Forum - Troy Walden**
  - Overall, the Forum went really well. We have received positive feedback so far on the sessions.
    - The networking session received some negative feedback due to technical issues and lack of conversation among attendees – we will want to brainstorm on how to improve in the future.
  - There were 429 registrations and 295 attendees (~69% of those who registered actually attended)
  - Denton PD – Traffic Unit used the Forum as a training session. They all watched in one room and discussed in real time what they were learning from the presentations and how the information could be used in their day-to-day duties.
    - Way to go Denton PD! This was a great use of the Forum!
  - Troy opened the floor up to the task force membership to discuss
    - Great presentations, especially Tall Cop, but wish there was more time in some of the sessions
    - There were some technical issues with some of the presentations but overall great information (i.e. Ryan Hutton)
    - The presentations were recorded (except for Tall Cop) and will be posted to the TxIDTF website. You can also log back into the conference and watch the recordings there.
    - If you are interested in drug-impaired driving, listen to Dr. Stout's presentation. He did an amazing job!
    - The task force provided feedback on the presenters they would like to see return in the future and which presenters were not quite as strong.
    - The Forum had great variety. It was difficult to choose between sessions.
    - How can we improve the networking session?
      - Breakout rooms by topic (not background)
      - Facilitate conversations
      - Discussion groups after sessions
      - Panel session where attendees can ask the experts questions. Representatives could include law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and education. The panel could do a brief presentation to set the stage.
    - Question: How can we put the information learned from the Forum into action? Something to think about as a task force.
    - Huge "thank you" to TxDOT for sponsoring the Forum and to the TTI staff who assisted in producing a successful Forum.

- We plan to be back to in-person next year, barring any unforeseen events!
- **2022 Impaired Driving Assessment - Allison Rounsavall**
  - The Assessment will take place the week of August 15<sup>th</sup> in Austin
  - The last Assessment was performed in 2015 and was postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. We are excited to finally get the Assessment accomplished this year! The overall goal of the Assessment is to evaluate Texas' impaired driving programs and identify strengths and weaknesses. The NHTSA experts will also provide recommendations for the State.
  - The Assessment will be HYBRID this year. So, things will look a little different, but the process will hopefully be streamlined and easier than in previous years. Many of the questions will be asked in advance, and electronically. Testimony will be provided for questions that need clarification or further explanations.
  - Timeline:
    - March: Kickoff meeting with NHTSA
    - April-May: Training on the "System" – the online platform where we will submit responses/evidence
    - June-July: Rounds of questioning in System – about 3 weeks to answer the questions assigned to you
    - August: NHTSA review of System responses/evidence; invite Texas stakeholders to participate in interviews in-person
  - Question: have other states done this?
    - This is the first year NHTSA is using this hybrid model for the impaired driving assessment
- **2022 Texas Impaired Driving Plan Review Process – Christine Adams**
  - You have all received individual sections of the Plan to review/revise based on your area of expertise. Please have those revisions in no later than Monday, 2/28.
  - We will incorporate revisions into the new Plan. This document will then be sent to TTI's Communication department who will edit and format the Plan into a new template. The 2022 Plan will be sent back to the task force for final revisions and then to TxDOT for review and approval.
  - The last step will be for you to sign the document before it is sent back to TxDOT to be submitted to NHTSA. This turn around time will be short. Please watch for correspondence.

#### **TxDOT Update – Letty von Rossum**

- Letty is the new Behavioral Traffic Safety Director
- Based on the available data, Texas is still experiencing an increase in alcohol-related crash fatalities
  - Impaired driving must continue to be a top priority. There were more proposals received this year for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program Area than any other year.
- We are excited to have you a part of the task force, Letty!

#### **Subcommittee Updates**

- **Legislative – Clay Abbott**
  - This is a non-legislative year. No upcoming legislation yet that is pertinent to the task force.
  - Bills passed last session are starting to be implemented.
    - SB 6 – Damon Allen Act – Bail Reform (stricter)
      - Effects what information magistrates will have when setting bail
      - Creation of a public safety report system
      - See the [87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Bill Summaries report](#) for more information on SB 6
      - Forum suggestion: panel on SB 6 and bail reform
    - TxSDY: Community Alcohol To-Go Research Tool (CART): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/txsdycart>
    - TxSDY: An expert review on marijuana legalization identified best practices were not included in last

session's legislative effort. Contact Nicole Holt for more information.

- **Education – Dannell Thomas**

- Met on November 16, 2021. See [meeting notes](#) posted to the website.
  - Dannell went over what we discussed at the meeting.
  - There will be some slight reformatting of the [Reference Book](#) so that it flows better and is easier to read and find information more quickly.
  - Next Steps: Expand to after-school/community based programs. The subcommittee decided that it is best to overhaul the existing book, highlighting programs that can be delivered in the community or in after-school programs.
  - Question: How do we maximize the impact of the Reference Book?
    - Data Driven – provide book to schools with the most significant challenges
    - PROMOTE – Send people to the TxIDTF website to view the book electronically
  - Question: Does the task force have the ability to affect what is being taught and tested in Driver's Education? Seems like some of the issues we are seeing could be reinforced in training/testing prior to getting a driver's license.
    - MADD is always willing to collaborate with driving schools and educate about the dangers of impaired driving & underage drinking prevention and DWI/DUI laws and consequences
    - Invite TDLR to the task force

- **Awards – Dottie McDonald**

- Thank you for to everyone who helped solicit award nominations! We had some really amazing award recipients this year.
- The presentation at the Forum was great! Lots of positive feedback. The awards presentation will be made available on the task force website.
- Letters to mayors and supervisors were mailed prior to the Forum in hopes that some of them may be able to attend.
- The press release was distributed after the announcements. Amarillo's release included the link to the Impaired Driving Champion Spotlight video.
- Time to promote 2023 nominations! The [applications for the safety awards](#) are now open through the website.

- **Research – Tara Wright**

- The most recent research review was distributed this month via email and posted to the website. View [here](#).
- Are there any specific topics you would like the subcommittee to review next?
  - Email Emmy: [e-shields@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:e-shields@tti.tamu.edu)
- Tara wanted to provide these resources for everyone: [recoverytexas.org](#) (self-screen, link to chat, link to treatment, etc.) and [bewelltexas.org](#) (virtual and limited in person (San Antonio) treatment for substance use disorders; accepts patients who cannot pay, those with insurance, and self-pay; available for anyone in Texas)
- Add "treatment and resource" section to the TXIDTF website

- **Drug Impaired – Nicole Holt**

- Several discussions on data sources. What is available? What are the gaps?
  - Presentation from TTI data analyst on drugged driving
- Next steps: identify activities to completed based on the data
- Subcommittee provided feedback on SHSP action items related to drug-impaired driving
  - Overall goal is to move these action items forward

**Group Discussion: Review of Strategic Highway Safety Plan Action Items – Melissa Walden**

- Melissa to review SHSP Strategies related to impaired-driving. Requesting feedback.
- Task force is the emphasis area team for impaired driving
- Goal: Align Impaired Driving Plan with SHSP
  1. Increase education of all road users on the impact of impaired driving and its prevention

- Effects of impairment – the magnitude of impaired driving on fatalities, make comparisons to other causes of death (murder, plane crashes)
  - Lead with death. Heavy consequence to pay.
- Impact of impaired driving – consequences (e.g. loss of job, family stress)
  - Based on survey research: The three top motivators to NOT drive drunk are 1) hurting or killing others 2) hurting or killing themselves and 3) jail. The expense of a DWI is also a deterrent.
  - Target new and inexperienced drivers (also applies to speeding and seat belt use)
  - There is a synergy between impairment and speeding or seat belt use. Impairment = lower risk assessment
  - Parents are concerned about their kids being in crashes due to impairment
- 2. Increase officer contacts with impaired drivers through regular traffic enforcement
  - Traffic enforcement – educate the police, community leaders, the public and traffic safety partners on the role of regular traffic enforcement stops as a primary tool in detecting impaired drivers and encourage their use to reduce crashes
    - Decrease in DWI arrests and decrease in traffic citations
      - NSC government affairs folks report this is happening nationwide and an increase in legislation for automated enforcement
      - Could be due to a culture/political shift? However, this is department specific.
      - Here's a recent story KVUE did on plummeting tickets. they also indicate distraction and speeding are way up in 2021. <https://youtu.be/RbOdM5faoTE>
    - Local policy makers need to be educated on the unintended consequences of reducing law enforcement budgets. Less enforcement = increased death toll.
    - STEP grants have increased; only 10% of vehicle stops
  - Data driven approach – to optimize areas and times for enforcement
    - Data is important but need to interpret it correctly as well. For example, DWI cases may look like they are dwindling but in reality, they are being plead down.
    - TxDOT has crash data – What can everyone else provide?
      - Office of Court Administration (OCA) – all cases filed
        - a. Let's get OCA involved with the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee.  
Contact Larry Krantz: [Larry.krantz@txdot.gov](mailto:Larry.krantz@txdot.gov)
      - TTI has lots of great data
      - How can we connect this data and make it useable? Subcommittee?
  - Law enforcement – training gaps for police on locations with a high probability for alcohol/drug use that lead to impaired driving
- 3. Increase data, training, and resources for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, toxicologists, judges, and community supervision
  - Train: DWI Detection
  - Train DWI Prosecution and Presentation of Evidence
  - Increase lab resources: Increase resources for labs to address testing capacity and provide testimony
  - Educate: Judges on the DWI process
    - Lots of turnover for judges = trainings needed every year
  - DWI data in crash reporting
  - Train: Community Supervision Personnel

### **Conclusion and Adjournment – Christine Adams**

- Email Christine if you called in for attendance purposes
- Emmy will send out poll to see who will attend in person meeting in June
- Be on the lookout for more information on the Impaired Driving Plan and Assessment!

**Next TxIDTF Meeting:**

June 16, 2022

TTI Headquarters / Webex Hybrid | Log-in Details Forthcoming