
Meeting Notes

Welcome Introductions

Larry Krantz

- Introduce new members – Christine introduced the following new members:
 - Allie Aguilar, DPS Driver's License Division
 - Bertha Escamilla, DPS Driver's License Division
 - Ron Swenson, TABC
 - Emma Dugas, MADD
 - Guest – Jordan Smith presenting for Brian Grubbs (LEADRS)
 - Membership introduced themselves to new members

New Business

Larry Krantz

- New TxIDTF structure:
 - Mission update: The mission of the TxIDTF is to eliminate injury and death caused by impaired driving in Texas...through the identification and strategic distribution of partner resources in critical areas.
 - KA crashes will help identify problem areas
 - Moderator – Larry Krantz
 - TTI Technical Advisory Staff
 - Executive Committees
 - ID Enforcement Training and Detection – DRE, ARIDE, SFST, DITEP
 - Forensic Testing – Breath Test training, alcohol/drug trends by state region, BAC reporting
 - Prosecution/legislation – training updates, trend updates, legislative updates
 - Judicial/bond – training updates, updates on judicial practices and challenges, updates on ID-related bond concepts
 - Treatment, Prevention, Research – updates on treatment and prevention concepts, white papers/research determined by executive committee
 - Retailer Enforcement and Education – TRACE, retailer inspections
 - Impaired Driving Data Base – updates
 - Quarterly meetings will be held
 - Executive Committee members will report out to the task force on a quarterly basis
 - (Afternoon) Working Group Discussion:
 - November – Assessment Recommendations
 - February – Begin Texas Impaired Driving Plan
 - April – Finalize Texas Impaired Driving Plan
 - July 2023 – Overall gap analysis for the year (tentative)
- FY 2023 TxIDTF goals:
 - Begin discussion and provide Executive Committee action on SFST loopholes
 - Begin discussion and provide framework for ID Database development and implementation

- Identify and invite additional membership: Indian Nations, additional law enforcement, military, and others as appropriate
- Larry provided a STEP update
 - 186 LE agencies were identified through data as priority agencies
 - 87 LE agencies have accepted STEP grant funding; 53 were priority agencies

Quarterly Updates:

- **Impaired Driving Enforcement Training and Detection** **David McGarah**
 - David McGarah provided the report on behalf of Carlos Champion
 - Presented the number of classes/officers trained in SFST, Advanced DWI, DITEP, ARIDE, and FRIDAY/ADAPT Classes in FY 22
 - SFST is utilizing wet labs to train officers. Participants are dosed with alcohol and law enforcement trainees observe while being taught to identify the signs and symptoms of impairment. Dry labs are also utilized and consist of video training.
 - Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio has military police officers that are requesting SFST classes.
 - David has also been working with the Kickapoo at Eagle Pass.
 - FY 23 DRE/ARIDE Training Locations Heat Map was presented
 - Visualization of where KA crashes are occurring overlaid with where officers are being trained
 - The coloration indicates the incidents of KA crashes. The darker the color, the more alcohol-impaired KA crashes have occurred in a county. The numbers that are overlaid on the counties indicate the number of officers that have been trained through the programs.

- **Forensic Testing** **Trevis Beckworth**
 - BAC Testing Program – There are 6,500 certified breath test operators and approximately 360 certified instruments under the supervision of the DPS Crime Lab.
 - Priority Areas – Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, El Paso
 - Certified breath test operators are deployed in priority jurisdictions.
 - Wet labs are an important tool utilized in these certification classes as well.
 - Analyze blood samples (35,000 around state)
 - The goal is to analyze 95% of these samples within a 30-day period.
 - Distributed to 8 DPS labs across the state to balance the workload and accomplish the above stated goal.
 - Challenges when case goes to trial – Sometimes must send analysts to other jurisdictions to testify.
 - Drug Toxicology – The Austin lab, overseen by Anna Mudd, is the only DPS lab handling drug toxicology. The department is overloaded with only 25 toxicologists working all 254 counties in Texas. There is currently a backlog of 11,000 cases.
 - Drug toxicology is becoming increasingly more complex as samples often indicate 3-4 drugs in the system and each one must be confirmed individually.
 - Looking to outsource some of these samples, but resources are limited, and many labs currently have their own backlogs.
 - Proactive in case management – Toxicologists reach out to jurisdictions to make sure the evidence is still needed, and the lab focuses on priority cases.
 - Legislative request for additional resources to get in front of the problem.

- Stop testing limits consist of a 0.10 BAC. At this threshold no drug toxicology screening will be conducted if a valid breath test or blood sample is on file. Priority is placed on cases with a living driver and deceased victim.

- **Prosecution/Legislative**

Clay Abbott

- Resources will be deployed to priority jurisdictions identified through strategic plans.
- Please reach out to any of the EC members if you have issues that can be addressed by the task force.
- The legislative subcommittee will need to convene as we head into the upcoming legislative session. After the elections, all incumbents won their districts so not much will change this session. There will be many bills on cannabis, but the Lt. Governor, does not support further reforms. It is not likely we will see much movement on that topic.

- **Judicial/Bond**

Holly Doran / Randy Sarosdy

- Holly Doran & Randy Sarosdy provided the report on behalf of Judge Weiser.
- There are four judicial organizations that provide training and assistance to the court system.
- Senate Bill (SB) 6 – Randy Sarosdy (Justice Court Training Center)
 - The Damon Allen Act (SB 6) was enacted on April 1, 2022. This piece of legislation was enacted to reform the bail system by providing magistrates better information about a defendant for release on personal bond.
 - Requires training for magistrates (8-HR). Justices of the Peace perform magistrate duties in many counties, other counties have criminal case magistrates.
 - All Class B or higher offenses must be viewed in the Public Safety Report System before bail release. Informs magistrates of mandatory bond conditions, previous convictions or detainment, crimes against peace officers, and failure to appear.

- **Treatment/Prevention/Research**

Charles Mathias

- UTSA also runs wet labs in their research.
- [SAMSHA Report: *Implementing Community-Level Policy to Prevent Alcohol Misuse*](#)
 - When we address impaired driving policy at an individual level the efforts will only reach some stakeholders. When we work toward prevention solutions at a community level, it impacts everyone.
 - Preventions focusing on ALL people in a community has a greater impact than interventions for individual-level changes in alcohol misuse.
 - Policy Evidence: DWI policies often are limited and fall into the moderate evidence category.
 - Working to move DWI policies to the strong evidence category.
 - How to make policies a reality: Lobbying is one option. Concerns around lobbying can restrict or dissuade organizations from working to implement evidence-based policies that benefit a community. Our job is to educate and inform not to persuade policy makers.

- **Retailer Enforcement and Education**

Ronald Swenson

- TABC has 215 Certified Peace Officers (CPO) in the Enforcement Division and 6 CPOs in support divisions. There are currently 21 vacant positions.
- Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE) – used to be assigned to regional majors, now the TRACE team is under unified leadership.
 - There are currently 15 agents, and the agency is looking to recruit more

agents.

- Compliance check operations are more covert than used to be. These enforcement operations are proactive, whereas TRACE operations are reactive.
- DRAM Shop investigations have caused a flood of open records requests.
- Local law enforcement needs to call TRACE (833-TABC-LAW) to get them involved in a case. There is a hotline monitored 24/7, manned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The dispatcher will contact TABC, investigators who are notified by supervisors and are deployed to scene.
- Qualifiers for TRACE investigations: alcohol-related, a death is involved, or death is likely to occur, and reason to believe a licensed establishment was involved.
- Investigations acquire receipts, name of employees, wristbands or hand markings, open containers, credit cards, etc. to build the case.
- Where agents receive information: Hotline, DPS, local police agencies, Sheriff Offices, other first responders, social media, news, Google alerts, attorneys, etc.
- Benefits: preserve evidence, allows local officers to focus on the criminal case while TABC investigates the business. Long term benefits include correction of retailer behavior, reduces calls for service, and increases highway safety.
- Statistics from FY22: 282 investigations, pre-assessments 1500+, administrative violations 100+, peace officers trained 4,064.

- Impaired Driving Database

Jordan Smith

- Jordan Smith provided the report on behalf of Brian Grubbs.
- A heat map was displayed that indicates usage of LEADRS by county.
- San Antonio integration with LEADRS will be live in January.
- DRE/ARIDE Training – Ft. Worth PD, Bexar County (SA)
- Officer opinions: outcomes of DWI arrests
 - In grant funded classes officers are surveyed to collect their opinions and experience with DWI arrests.
- LEADRS tracks DWI citations from start to finish (arrest through adjudication).

Impaired Driving Assessment Presentation

Christine Adams

- Christine thanked the membership for their participation with both the NHTSA online portal questions and supporting documentation, as well as for showing up in-person to testify.
- Recommendations for the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force:
 - Acquire official status by a governor-issued Executive Order officially establishing the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force with the stated intent of validating strategies to combat impaired driving-related vehicle crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities on Texas roadways.
 - Expand the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force to include an Executive Council consisting of a variety of high-ranking state officials to elevate the profile and status of the task force within the governmental framework.
 - Leverage the executive authority of the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force to provide the Governor and key members of the state's Senate and House of Representatives with an in-person account of the group's work along with an educational report on the status of impaired driving-related crashes to include associated data and research regarding the carnage of human lives lost and associated costs.

- Expand the composition of the Impaired Driving Task Force to fill representation gaps created by the lack of experts in the fields of local public health, emergency medicine, and alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention programs. Other groups to be considered for membership should include representatives from the military, veterans, employers, and community groups, especially those representing diverse populations.
- **Priority Recommendations:**
 - **Prevention:** Enact a ten-cent drink tax.
 - **Criminal Justice:**
 - **Enforcement:**
 - Recruit additional Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) and provide agency priority in counties or jurisdictions with no DREs.
 - Create and fund driving while intoxicated officer positions to focus on impaired driving enforcement.
 - Support the expansion of Law Enforcement Advanced Data Reporting System (LEADRS).
 - Increase forensic laboratory capacity to screen and confirm toxicological specimens submitted by law enforcement AND timely produce toxicology reports.
 - **Prosecution:**
 - Write a white paper setting out the requirements and rationale for a complete *driving while intoxicated tracking system*.
 - **Adjudication:**
 - Work with Law Enforcement Advanced Data Reporting System (LEADRS) and other justice information systems to design a path forward to have a *driving while intoxicated tracking system*.
 - **Screening and Assessment:**
 - Identify, train, and support qualified assessment and evaluation professionals in underserved areas.
 - Enact a statute that establishes a driving while intoxicated (DWI) tracking system by giving strong incentives to all keepers of impaired driving offenses data to make sure that the records systems communicate data to each other to track every DWI offense.
 - **Treatment and Rehabilitation:**
 - Enact a statute that establishes a driving while intoxicated (DWI) tracking system by giving strong incentives to all keepers of impaired driving offenses data to make sure that the records systems communicate data to each other to track every DWI offense.
 - Conduct an impact evaluation of driving while intoxicated courts.
 - **Program Evaluation and Data:**
 - Enact a statute that establishes a driving while intoxicated (DWI) tracking system by giving strong incentives to all keepers of impaired driving offenses data to make sure that the records systems communicate data to each other to track every DWI offense.
 - Evaluate the Ignition Interlock Device program to determine if its current processes are effective and consider whether a more centralized approach would provide for broader participation and compliance.
 - Centralize the monitoring of compliance and establish a single source of records to evaluate the effectiveness of the Ignition Interlock Device program as an impaired driver recidivism reduction program.

Breakout Groups: Impaired Driving Assessment Review

- A list of all assessment recommendations was distributed to the group to discuss in working groups. Members were asked to discuss how we will move the recommendations forward over the next five years, additional stakeholders who may be needed to contribute to the success of recommendation implementation, and how they will develop their sections of the Texas Impaired Driving Plan.
- A report of discussions from each group was provided:
 - **Criminal Justice System – Prosecution/Adjudication**
 - Focus on information gathering to develop and implement a DWI tracking system
 - Identify a state that does have a DWI tracking system and have them present to the task force on the development of the system and integration of various data keeping houses
 - How can LEADRS be utilized to create a DWI tracking system?
 - Continued discussion of SB 6 (Damon Allen Act) and the tracking of bond conditions, lessons learned from SB 6
 - Randy to present updates
 - Traffic safety prosecutor retention issue – Clay suggests recognizing/awarding DWI prosecutors to increase retention
 - **Law Enforcement**
 - More DWI police officers = more funding
 - Recruitment of more DREs in progress but still have a long way to go
 - How can we assist Carlos with recruitment?
 - Issue: Some officers (or their departments) do not want to become DREs because they will be called to other jurisdictions for evaluations without that other department paying for their time and efforts
 - We need an overtime program for DREs to be able to help other jurisdictions outside of their department
 - DPS working on expanding laboratory capacity and securing additional funding through the legislature
 - **Prevention/Treatment**
 - TxSDY conducting a survey of public perception of an excise tax on alcohol
 - Nicole to share with group when complete
 - Support school prevention staff, such as school counselors, with alcohol and drug abuse prevention resources
 - TxSDY working with colleges to help support alcohol and drug abuse prevention efforts with tools such as Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI)
 - ODC updating drug employment trainings
 - Work with community coalitions to see what they are doing and what we can offer them to assist in their local efforts
 - Collaborate with community coalitions to unify traffic safety messaging – provide community coalitions with outlines/guidance or webinar trainings

Conclusion and Adjournment

- The Texas Impaired Driving Forum will be held Wednesday, February 22nd at the Norris Conference Center in Austin, TX.
- Next TxIDTF will be held Thursday, February 23rd at the Norris Conference Center in Austin, TX.