



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Task Force Newsletter



Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation

At the April 27, 2023, meeting of the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force, the Executive Committee provided the following updates.



Retail Enforcement and Education: Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission Law Enforcement Department

TABC recently conducted a reorganization of its Enforcement Division, which was divided into two bureaus, each of which has a specific purview:

Operations Bureau: This bureau is supervised by Deputy Chief David Doggett, who is in Austin at

the TABC Headquarters. The Operations Bureau is divided into 5 geographic regions across the state with a Major supervising each region: West Texas (El Paso,) North Texas (Arlington), Southeast Texas (Houston), Central Texas (Austin), and Southwest Texas (San Antonio). Agents assigned to the Operations Bureau focus enforcement activities on public safety violations as well as complaint-driven investigations. These violations include Minor-related, Intoxication-related, Breach of the Peace, Prohibited Hour, and Vice Crimes. Agents utilize Underage Compliance Operations, Undercover Operations, and non-covert open inspections to identify establishments that commit these types of violations.

Investigations Bureau: This bureau is supervised by Deputy Chief Ronald Swenson, who is in Austin at the TABC Headquarters. The Investigations Bureau is divided into 3 functional units with statewide jurisdiction. The 3 units include the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), the Intelligence Support Unit (ISU), and the Target Responsibility for Alcohol Related Emergencies Unit (TRACE). SIU focuses on long-term organized criminal investigations occurring with a nexus to the alcoholic beverage industry. ISU focuses on providing support for investigations, usually specific to complex financial crimes, digital forensics, analytical work, and victim services. TRACE focuses on investigations of alcohol-related fatalities or accidents that resulted in serious bodily injury, including motor vehicle accidents or aggravated breaches that occur at TABC-licensed establishments.

The separate purview of each bureau helps ensure that a specific focus is placed on each investigation and appropriate resources are applied.

Contact Info:

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David Doggett
Deputy Chief – Operations Bureau
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david.doggett@tabc.texas.gov



Impaired Driving Enforcement Training and Detection

The Texas DRE Program has partnered with the Be A Blake Foundation. Blake was 32 when his life was tragically taken on Aug. 31, 2021, by a drug-impaired driver. The mission of the Be A Blake Foundation is to educate all on the dangers of drug-impaired driving and to support further training for law enforcement officials to better identify drug-impaired driving, with a goal to save lives by making our roads, streets, and highways safer.

Attending DRE school can be cost prohibitive for law enforcement agencies and individual officers. The Be A Blake Foundation offers scholarships for officers to attend DRE school. To learn more and donate to this non-profit, go to www.beablakefoundation.com.

A list of upcoming law enforcement trainings can be found below in the event section.

Executive Committee 2023 Updates
Continued on page 2.



Continued: Executive Committee 2023 Updates

LEADRS

Law Enforcement Advanced
DWI/DUI Reporting System

Impaired Driving Database

LEADRS is currently working on updating their system. The updated version of LEADRS is expected to be completed in 2024. More updates to come!

If you have any data analytic needs, please contact Jordan Smith, lead analyst (LEADRS), at Jordan.Smith@leadrs.org.

Subcommittee Updates

- The Prevention Subcommittee met on April 11th. View the meeting notes [here](#).
- The Prevention Subcommittee met on May 22nd. View the meeting notes [here](#).
- Research Subcommittee article reviews coming soon!
- 88th Texas Legislature Bill Summaries Report coming August 2023!



TEXAS
IMPAIRED DRIVING
TASK FORCE

The next meeting:

**Thursday,
July 27, 2023**

Norris Conference Center

2525 W Anderson Ln. #365
Austin, TX 78757

Judiciary

Update on Senate Bill 6 – [The Damon Allen Act](#)

Over 900 Judges have completed the on-line, 8-hour course offered by Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ) and required by SB 6 to be competent to set bonds.

SB 6 amends Chapter 17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide more complete and accurate information to a magistrate in setting bail and bond conditions, including a defendant's criminal history record information, and requiring a magistrate, after individualized consideration of all the factors listed in Art. 17.15, to order the defendant to be: (1) granted a personal bond with or without conditions; (2) granted a bail bond with or without conditions; or (3) denied bail under the Texas Constitution and other laws. In setting bail the magistrate must impose the least restrictive condition, if any, and the personal bond or bail bond necessary to ensure the defendant's appearance in court and the safety of the community, law enforcement and the victim.

Prosecution & Legislation

The 88th Legislature's regular session ran from January 10 to May 29, 2023. The Texas Impaired Driving Task Force's Legislative Subcommittee has been monitoring impaired-driving legislation. The following bills have been passed to Governor Abbott for signature. A detailed overview will be provided at the July meeting of the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force.

- **HB 291:** Relating to occupational driver's licenses and the renewal of driver's licenses.
- **HB 393:** Relating to restitution payments for the support of a child whose parent or guardian is a victim of intoxication manslaughter.
- **HB 420:** Relating to the offense of providing an alcoholic beverage to a minor; increasing a criminal penalty.
- **HB 1163:** Relating to creating the criminal offense of boating while intoxicated with a child passenger; changing the eligibility for deferred adjudication community supervision.
- **SB 760:** Relating to taking a blood specimen from the body of a deceased person during an inquest.
- **SB 773:** Relating to access to certain investigational drugs, biological products, and devices used in clinical trials by patients with severe chronic diseases.





Welcome New Members!



Please welcome our new members:

Esther Vasquez

*Supervisor, Driver's License Division,
Texas Department of Public Safety*

Jordan Smith

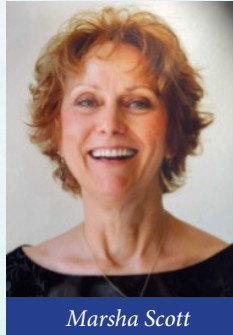
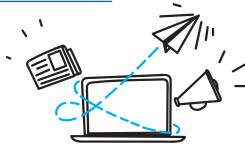
Lead Data Analyst, LEADRS

Annette Beard

Regional Manager, Smart Start Inc.

Newsletter Additions

If you would you like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to c-adams@tti.tamu.edu or e-shields@tti.tamu.edu.



Marsha Scott

Marsha Scott Tribute

It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the contributions of our colleague, Marsha Scott, who passed away on June 1, 2023. Marsha was a fierce advocate for protecting our future generations by focusing on traffic safety issues concerning our youth. Everyone who knew her and worked with her understood she was kind, meticulous, an excellent communicator, and she genuinely cared about improving outcomes on Texas roadways.

Marsha was a Program Manager with TxDOT's Behavioral Traffic Safety (BTS) section of TxDOT's Traffic Safety Division for eleven years. Marsha began her TxDOT career overseeing BTS's large media campaigns, and then moved into managing the area of Youth Traffic Safety with a focus on teens and alcohol-impaired driving. Before she joined TxDOT, Marsha worked in the private sector as a Marketing Manager. But Marsha found her time at TxDOT to be the most rewarding job of her professional career. Marsha graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin earning a bachelor's degree in communications and art. She was a certified Texas Contract Manager since 2018.

Marsha will be remembered fondly for her enthusiasm, her encouragement, and her kind heart. She was a true champion for traffic safety and her presence in our programs will be missed.

Dottie McDonald Farewell Message



Dottie McDonald

It is with a debt of gratitude that we announce the retirement of long-time advocate and valued traffic safety stakeholder, Dottie McDonald. She officially retired from Smart Start on June 2, 2023, after decades of contributions to reducing the harms caused by impaired driving. Please join us in acknowledging her long, dedicated career of civil service.

Ms. McDonald joined Smart Start, LLC in 2002, after working in the field of court administration for 25 years, including positions with the Texas District Courts and the Supreme Court of Texas. With over 45 years' experience in court management, training and education, Ms. McDonald's proficiencies include project management, Alternative Dispute Resolution, marketing, training, and education. She was responsible for providing information and training on Smart Start's alcohol monitoring technology for the judicial community, court staff, monitoring authorities, defense community, and public safety advocates.

She is a member of the National Association for Court Administration, and the National Association for State Judicial Educators where she served as a member of the DWI On-Line Judicial Resource Committee. Ms. McDonald has also served as faculty for Criminal Defense Associations across the nation, the Rural Association for Court Administration, Texas Association for Court Administration, Texas Center for the Judiciary, The Texas Justice Court Training Center, The Texas Municipal Courts Training Center, The National Center for State Courts, and The National Judicial College.

Ms. McDonald was awarded the Justice Charles W. Barrow Award for outstanding service in the field of court administration. She has completed the Court Executive Development Program and is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management with the National Center for State Courts.

Thank you for your years of dedicated service, Dottie. Your contributions, your knowledge, and your smile will be missed by your colleagues. We wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement!



Updates from the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC)

This statewide group of stakeholders uses the TRCC as a forum for the planning, coordination, and implementation of projects to improve Texas' traffic records system. The TRCC uses federal "State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants (405c)" and other funds to promote projects to improve the accessibility, accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, and uniformity of the traffic records systems

in Texas. These projects include efforts to improve individual databases as well as to promote linkages between the core traffic records systems through the development of interfaces to improve direct business needs and integration to improve data analysis.

Read Newsletter [here](#).

Join the TRCC email list [here](#).

Cannabis-Impaired Driving Resources

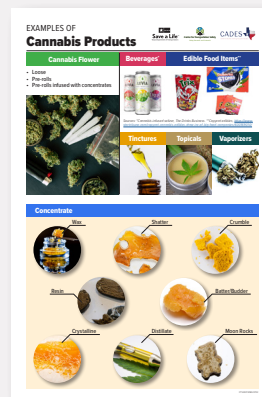
The following resources were provided by the TSRPs who presented at the 2023 Texas Impaired Driving Forum on the topic of cannabis-impaired driving.

- [Cannabis Impairment Assessment](#) – Colorado District Attorneys' Council
- [Report From the Impaired Driving Safety Commission](#) – Michigan Impaired Driving Safety Commission
- [Cannabis FAQs](#) – Colorado District Attorneys' Council
- [Cannabis-Impaired Driving Handouts and Webinars](#)
- [Investigation and Prosecution of Cannabis-Impaired Driving Cases](#) – National Traffic Law Center



The following resources are provided by the TxDOT-funded Essential Education on Marijuana Project.

- [Essential Marijuana On-Line Training](#)
- [Examples of Cannabis Products](#)
- [Am I High?](#)



In the news

- [Cannabis Regulators Association \(CANNRA\) Urges Federal Action to Address Hemp-Derived Cannabinoid Product Regulation](#)
- [Delta-8 And -9 THC-O Are Controlled Substances, DEA Says](#)
 - [Letter from DEA regarding THC-O](#)



JUNE

- [TxSFST: Waxahachie 50-HR SFST Instructor Course](#)
June 12–16 | Waxahachie, TX
- [Texas DRE: The Regional DWI Training Conference “Don’t Fear the Darkside”](#)
June 13–14 | Pharr, TX
- [Our Driving Concern: When it Hits the Fan – Best Practices for Managing Incidents](#)
June 15 | Webinar
- [Texas DRE: Pharr – ARIDE Course](#)
June 15–16 | Pharr, TX
- BVIPC: RED Class
June 17 | Dallas, TX

Email Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu to register

- [Texas DRE: The Regional Conference “The Medical Foundations of Visual Systems Testing”](#)
June 19–21 | Pasadena, TX
- [TxSFST: Tarrant Co 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
June 22 | Fort Worth, TX
- [TxSFST: San Patricio Co 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
June 23 | Sinton, TX
- BVIPC: RED Class
June 24 | Lakeway, TX

Email Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu to register

- [Texas DRE: Waxahachie – ARIDE Course](#)
June 26–27 | Waxahachie, TX

- [TxSFST: Kleburg Co 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)
June 26–28 | Kingsville, TX
- [NADCP: RISE Conference](#)
June 26–29 | Houston, TX
- [TxSFST: San Patricio Co 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
June 29 | Sinton, TX
- [Texas DRE: San Antonio – ARIDE Course](#)
June 29–30 | San Antonio, TX

JULY

- [TxSFST: San Patricio Co 8-HR Advanced DWI Course](#)
July 6 | Sinton, TX
- [Texas DRE: Richardson – ARIDE Course](#)
July 10–11 | Richardson, TX
- [Texas DRE: Southlake – DRE Basic Certification Course](#)
July 10–20 | Southlake, TX
- [TxSFST: Tarrant Co 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
July 12 | Fort Worth, TX
- [Texas DRE: Carrollton – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\) Course](#)
July 13 | Carrollton, TX
- BVIPC: RED Class
July 22 | Navasota, TX

Email Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu to register

- [MADD: North Texas Virtual DWI Judiciary Roundtable](#)
July 19 | Virtual

AUGUST

- [TxSFST: Reeves Co 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)
August 1–3 | Pecos, TX
- BVIPC: RED Class
August 5 | Denton, TX
- [Texas DRE: Galveston – ARIDE Course](#)
August 7–8 | Galveston, TX
- [IACP: Impaired Driving Traffic Safety Conference](#)
August 9–11 | Anaheim, California

Email Program Manager, Cindy Kovar cmkovar@ag.tamu.edu to register

- [GHSA: 2023 Annual Meeting](#)
August 12–16 | New York, New York
- [NCSL: Legislative Summit](#)
August 14–16 | Indianapolis, Indiana
- BVIPC: RED Class
August 15 | College Station, TX

Email Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu to register

- [TxSFST: Tarrant Co 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
August 16 | Fort Worth, TX