



TxIDTF Language Barriers Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Notes | September 25, 2023 @ 10:00am

AGENDA

1. Review Proposed Solutions: The goal is to address Non-English/Spanish speaking populations, with the aim of reducing DWI recidivism.
2. Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) – Troy Walden
 - TDLR is in the process of revising the DWI Education Course. A steering committee has already been formed.
 - Is there any opportunity for the TxIDTF to participate in the steering committee or provide input on the revisions?
 - Amend Texas Administrative Code:
 - TDLR oversees DWI Education and the licensing of providers. It is restrictive in terms of who can become an instructor/translator for the course.
 - Currently, code requires the course to be taught in a single language.
 - It costs approximately \$800 in fees to become an instructor.
 - We can petition TDLR to amend the rules to allow for an online self-directed course that can be translated into multiple languages.
 - The DWI education course meets the needs for an online self-directed course.
 - Troy is scheduled to meet Friday, September 29 with TDLR to talk about the language barriers concern with DWI educational courses.
 - Issue: Judges are opting out of sentencing Non-English/Spanish speakers to complete the DWI course since it is not translated into their native language.
 - Possible solutions:
 - Voiceover translation for an online course. This provides standardization. What vendors could translate the online course (e.g., Google)?
 - An online self-directed training will have a large up-front cost but can reach the most people.
 - Print-based learning is also an option.
3. Alternate programs:
 - Victim Impact Panel (VIP) – MADD conducts online and in-person panels
 - Less restrictions than TDLR in terms of who is approved to interpret (e.g., family member).
 - Revamped online system in 2020 to improve the impact of a virtual VIP.

- Not mandated by statute, in Texas, but can encourage judges/prosecutors to use their discretion to require VIP attendance when sentencing/in plea deals.
 - Good way to connect the crime to the humans who are impacted.
 - Can community service also be a component of this?
- Through the task force, can we put something together for judges/prosecutors that highlights different options besides DWI Education Courses only?
 - Write a position paper on DWI education alternatives for Non-English/Spanish speakers.
- 4. Two Prong Approach:
 - Address translations for existing courses (technology based or potentially print materials).
 - Write a position paper with alternative options for judges to consider in sentencing.
- 5. Determine Next Meeting Date(s)
 - Christine will send out a Doodle Poll to select the next meeting date prior to the next TxIDTF meeting.

Subcommittee Members

- Charles Mathias, UT Health San Antonio
- Troy Walden, Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- Nicole Holt, Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth
- Debra Marable, Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Missy Williams, Texas Municipal Police Association