
Meeting Notes

10:00 AM

Welcome Introductions

- TxDOT Update **Letty von Rossum**
 - The RFP will be sent on November 10th via eGrants
 - The RFP training will be November 15th
 - The close date for the RFP is January 4th
- Impaired Driving Enforcement **Larry Krantz**
 - There were 48 proposals received for IDM
 - The enforcement periods will be: December (holiday season), Spring Break, Independence Day, Labor Day
 - Program is growing
- Update on Revisions to CR-3 Form **Jim Markham**
 - Attended the TCOLE conference to talk with law enforcement about updates to the CR-3 form
 - Currently the CR3 form is paper (3-4 pages) via adobe
 - The CR-4 (working title) form expected on 1/1/25
 - The new form will be an electronic form and self-building. This will increase the efficiency of the form and also allow for new fields to be added.
 - The standard fields will be: location, units involved, conditions, charges, non-MV damage, narrative, diagram, officer info
 - This will also allow for a live data system and for supplementals (like tox results) to be added at a later date more easily
 - Need input on what fields to add to the form.
 - Mental Health/Medical History/Treatment & Assessment data
 - Alcohol or other drug involved
 - EMS UID data
 - EMS involved – responder struck
 - At the next TxIDTF meeting in February, Jim will share the following information:
 - FARS update
 - Current CR-3 form and suggested revisions

10:30 AM

New Business

Christine Adams

- FY23 TxIDTF Survey Results:
 - Maintaining quarterly meeting schedule. Meetings will stay all in-

person so we have an opportunity to collaborate. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please read over the meeting notes and ask any questions you may have.

- Some survey responses indicated that part of the membership feels it is a requirement to participate on TxIDTF. While we want you all here, it is not a requirement and we only want you to come if you are interested in actively participating.
- COMMUNICATION. Please let the TTI Project Team know if you have any specific areas of concern or opportunities for the task force to collaborate.
- Participate on subcommittee work when appropriate. Executive Committee (EC) to guide and assign subcommittee work.
- In addition to program updates, EC to provide current trends in their field and opportunities for the task force to collaborate to address issues in our state.
- Thank you all for your trust in coordinating your efforts to reduce harm on our roadways. You are all leaders in your stakeholder areas, and it is an honor to work with all of you.
- 2024 Texas Impaired Driving Forum
 - Send any topic/speaker ideas via email by November 15th.
- Award Nominations
 - Send nominations via email by November 30th.

11:00 AM

Quarterly Updates

- Forensic Testing **Trevis Beckworth**
 - Average 96.37% of blood alcohol reports are released in 30 days or less
 - Law enforcement reported a shortage of blood kits. DPS reached out to vendor to fulfill orders.
 - Breath Testing – 25% turnover in the past year
 - Taught 40 Breath Test Operator schools in GY23
 - Trained 775 new Breath Test Operators
 - Over half of these new BTOs are in Priority Communities
 - For more information on upcoming classes, please visit <https://www.dps.texas.gov/BalLab>
 - Drug Toxicology – Over 9,000 case backlog
 - Polydrug use, so having to run multiple tests
 - Limited resources
 - Requested more resources from the legislature
 - Drug Tox Exceptional Item (EI) & Outsourcing
 - 88th Legislature appropriated resources to accelerate forensic testing of drug toxicology cases
 - Additional personnel (30-45 new staffers), equipment and lab space
 - Started a project to outsource cases during the implementation of EI with EMS (can testify)
 - Outsourcing oldest cases and expedited cases

- The majority of the work has been completed; an additional 1-2 confirmation tests are needed
- Blood Kit Destruction Authorization
 - We have ~50,000 blood kits that lack the authorization for disposal
 - Kits must be refrigerated until disposed
 - Offenses prior to 9/1/2021 require judge authorization
 - Offenses after 9/1/2021 allow prosecutors to grant destruction authorization (SB 335)
 - For a list of cases awaiting destruction in your jurisdiction, contact your local DPS lab.
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/crime-laboratory/contact-information>
- Backlog project – closed out 700 cases in 2 months
- Treatment/Prevention/Research **Charles Mathias**
 - Dr. Mathias reported on the research article reviewed by the research subcommittee: Evaluation of Field Sobriety Tests for Identifying Drivers Under the Influence of Cannabis: A Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT)
 - Study Objective: Examination of the classification accuracy of drug recognition expert officer–administered field sobriety tests to assess (1) cannabis exposure and (2) driving simulator impairment.
 - The RCT design is rare in traffic safety research and lends credibility to the study from other researchers. However, the RCT design is not representative of real-world conditions that play a large factor in traffic safety.
 - Study Outcomes:
 - THC groups were more likely to be classified as impaired on the FST at 1, 2, and 3hrs post-smoking.
 - High false positive rate (49%) for placebo group, greater than in previous reports with untrained officers (35% and 16%).
 - Group differences in FST not due to differences in group demographics or prior THC use patterns.
 - *Walk & Turn, One Leg Stand* significantly related to poor simulator driving.
 - FST performance improved over time (practice effects, recovery from THC).
 - View the entire article review on the TxIDTF website here:
<https://www.texasimpaireddrivingtaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Evaluation-of-Field-Sobriety-Tests-for-Identifying-Drivers-10-2-2023.pdf>
- Language Barrier Subcommittee **Troy Walden**
 - Dr. Walden presented on the work the language barriers subcommittee has been conducting since the last TxIDTF meeting. In July, Judge Hand of Amarillo presented the issue of non-English/Spanish speaking populations unable to understand the

court-mandated DWI Education (TDLR course). Often, this results in the requirement being waived by the court.

- The goal of this committee is to address the language barrier concern, to ensure that all DWI offenders receive adequate education, with the aim to reduce recidivism.
- Dr. Walden met with Michael Strawn of TDLR who administers the DWI Education Training. TDLR recognized several issues with the curriculum:
 - Dated curriculum and training materials
 - Language translation issues for some learners. TDLR does not have resources to translate course to all languages. There is a need to concentrate on major languages inherent to the state.
 - Instructor and provider limitations concerning translation solutions and services.
 - Screening participants to offer appropriate referral information, available chemical dependency counselors, and treatment resources in the learner's local area and providing exit interviews to participants post-training.
- Alternative Solutions #1: Triennial Highway Safety Plan (3HSP) and Translator Services
 - Work with TxDOT TSS's in each district and the respective language service provider banks. If possible do not use family members or children. (Only as a last resort.)
 - Recommend course providers to schedule certain days where translation services are conducted for their training sessions
 - Ensure that course providers training sessions are appropriately set up for alternative language translations (translators and written documentation translation)
- Alternative Solution #2: Machine Translation and Interpretation Software/Hardware
- Alternative Solution #3: Self-directed and online training
 - Individual Technology Based Training (*Print Based or E-Training Methods*)
 - Purpose is to present the training content only
 - Learner is expected to work on their own w/out instructor
 - Training is built specifically for the population of learners (language)
 - Must include evaluation to measure skills/knowledge gain
- The language barriers subcommittee will continue to explore all solutions. See meeting minutes: [September 25, 2023](#) & [October 10, 2023](#)
- Prevention Subcommittee **Lisa Minjares**
 - Check out the K-12 Reference Book:
<https://www.texasimpaireddrivingtaskforce.org/referencebook/>
 - Possible Forum topics: Collaboration Panel, Alcohol To-Go, Evidence-Based Programming, Program Evaluation

- Always open to partner opportunities.
- Prosecution/Legislative **Clay Abbott**
 - There have been several special sessions. One impaired-driving bill passed since the July meeting.
 - HB 4528: Relating to the requirement that a peace officer take possession of a person's driver's license following the person's failure to pass or refusal to consent to a test for intoxication.
 - Full 88th Legislature Summary on the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force website: <https://www.texasimpaireddrivingtaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Bill-Summaries-FINAL.pdf>
 - Prosecutor perspective: DWI arrests are down BUT Intox Assault and DWI fatalities are up
 - This can be explained by less traffic stops and citations, which is linked to lack of funding for police departments
 - Most DWI arrests are due to collisions and 911/dispatch calls
 - More cases are going to trial in a post-pandemic world

12:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

- Judge Robert Anchondo – Specialty Courts **Judge Anchondo**
 Guest: **Judge Elizabeth Rainey**, Governor’s Specialty Court Advisory Council
- Judge Anchondo works with repeat DWI offenders in his specialty court. His specialty court team consists of himself, treatment counselors, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and more. The goal of his DWI court is to change the behavior of the repeat DWI offender. His court has a 93% graduation rate.
 - While DWI courts are effective at reducing recidivism, they are costly and funding for these courts is an issue.
 - HB 1256 (87th Legislature) requires 1% tax on some mixed beverages to be allocated to Specialty Courts
 - General Revenue Account 5184 – Specialty Courts
 - This account was created to receive court costs from defendants convicted under certain sections of the Penal Code. **May be used only to fund specialty court programs** established under Subtitle K, Title 2, Government Code (family drug courts, mental health courts, veteran’s treatment courts, etc.). Appropriated only to the criminal justice division of the governor's office for distribution to applicable specialty court programs.
 - Includes: Adult Drug Courts (including DWI Courts, although these courts are separate), Veterans Court, CSEP Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Family Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Public Safety Specialty Court
 - The Specialty Court Advisory Council evaluates grant applications and makes recommendations to the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division
 - Consists of 9 members appointed by the Governor:
 - 4 Judges with experience with: Commercially Sexually Exploited Persons Court Program, Family Drug Court Program, Drug

Court Program, Veterans Court Program, Mental Health Court Program, Public Safety Employees Treatment Court Program, Juvenile Family Court Program

- 5 members that represent the public
- HB 2741 (88th Legislature): Allows the Specialty Court Advisory Council to make recommendations to the **Texas Judicial Council, the Office of Court Administration** and the criminal justice division regarding best practices for specialty courts.
 - Also, added **juvenile family drug court programs** to list of definitions of “Specialty Courts”
- Advisory Council Role via Judge Rainey
 - Review the grant requests from courts across the state. Judge Rainey makes notes on the grant requests, which can be accessed by the court for review later (although not all members provide notes)
- Grants are reviewed by 3 people who are randomly assigned. If all three say “yes” then the grant is approved; If 2 of 3 say “yes, then the grant request is brought to discussion for all 9 members.
- The Advisory Council does not have control over funding amounts. That is up to the Office of the Governor.
 - This grant cycle, more funding is expected than in the past for courts.
- The Advisory Council also recommends best practices for Texas specialty courts.
 - Statewide software: Track participants’ needs, risk factors, sanctions, drug/alcohol tests, compliance, treatment outcomes, and more. From referral to graduation utilize a single system that all stakeholders can access, including judges, attorneys, providers, and case managers.
 - Peer reviews/evaluations (8-10 budgeted per FY) – This creates accountability for courts. If run improperly, the courts can actually cause harm. Process evaluations of specialty courts should be utilized to measure efficiency, efficacy, and achievement of program goals.
- For FY 24, 87 programs applied (15.6 million). About half were Adult Drug Courts (includes DWI). Judge Rainey will provide information on how many grants were approved.
- Evaluation of DWI Courts is a NHTSA Recommendation from the 2022 Impaired Driving Assessment. Judge Rainey has agreed to communicate with the TxIDTF to include the peer reviews/evaluations in the 2024 Texas Impaired Driving Plan.

2:00 PM

LEADRS/DRE Cannabis Data

Brian Grubbs & Carlos Champion

- The decriminalization of marijuana is coming.
 - What is the impact on traffic safety and law enforcement?
 - What impact do non-CNS depressants (alcohol) such as marijuana and methamphetamines have on driving behavior?

- For alcohol, cannabis, and CNS stimulants, the top reason for contact with impaired-driver is “911 call or Dispatched”
 - Law enforcement should continue to stop for traffic offenses
- DWI Arrest Data (LEADRS)
 - 53% of LEADRS DWI arrest have blood specimens
 - 52% are ploy drug use DWIs
 - Cannabis is most common drug detected on DWI arrest
 - CNS depressants are most common drugs detected by the arresting officer
- Key Takeaways:
 - Officer are stopping the correct drivers
 - More drivers are under the influence of cannabis and CNS stimulants than LE realizes.
 - More emphasis on ARIDE training for LE to detect non-CNS depressant intoxication.

2:15 PM

Cannabis & Alcohol Sold in Combination

Christine Adams

- Businesses in Texas are selling THC (derivatives under the Farm Bill) and alcohol in combination
- States with Adult-Use Onsite Consumption do NOT allow for alcohol and cannabis to be sold at the same location. In some adult use states businesses cannot hold both a liquor license and a cannabis license.
- Why is this a concern in Texas?
 - Cannabis moves to the number one drug category, when combined with alcohol, in serious injury and fatality (KA) crashes.
 - Cannabis is present in 28.2% of KA crashes with alcohol-involved
 - Alcohol increases the absorption of all forms of THC, potentially leading to a considerably enhanced high. Consuming hemp derived THC and alcohol at the same time can exacerbate alcohol’s judgment-impairing effects.
- Next Steps:
 - Legislative Subcommittee to work on proposed regulations/educational materials for legislature
 - Prevention/Education Subcommittee to work on ways to educate the public and businesses on the danger of consuming alcohol and cannabis in combination.

3:00 PM

Conclusion and Adjournment