
Meeting Notes

- 10:00 AM Welcome Introductions **Larry Krantz**
- TxDOT Update
 - Fiscal Year 2025 BTS grant contracts will be sent to subgrantees for signature soon.
 - The Texas Impaired Driving Plan has been submitted to NHTSA. The Plan will be sent to the membership and posted on the TxIDTF website once NHTSA approves it.
- 10:15 AM New Business **Christine Adams**
- Review of TxIDTF Activities FY24 and Planning FY25
 - Membership agreed with the current format of meetings (i.e. Executive Committee updates in the morning and working group discussions in the afternoon).
 - Membership agreed with how the Texas Impaired Driving Plan is being updated (i.e. working on the Plan in-person at task force meetings versus individually via email).
 - Texas Impaired Driving Safety Awards will be presented at the 2025 Forum. Submit nominations here:
https://tti.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6MaEP0oIxycqZoN
 - Reconvene Awards Selection Subcommittee. Reach out to [Christine](#) or [Emmy](#) if you would like to participate in award selection. This committee meets once a year.
 - The next TxIDTF meeting will be in either October or November. TxIDTF Admins will distribute dates for FY25 as soon as venues/dates are secured.
 - Will share 2025 Texas Impaired Driving Forum speakers at the next TxIDTF meeting to allow for review and comment by the membership. Send any speaker/topic recommendations to [Emmy](#) or [Christine](#) by October 1.
 - The Legislative Subcommittee will reconvene in FY25 for the 89th Texas Legislature.
 - The committee is open to new members joining. Please reach out to [Emmy](#) or [Christine](#) if you are interested.
- 10:30 AM Quarterly Updates
- Retailer Enforcement and Education – Spring Break Enforcement **Sgt. Talley**
 - Majority of spring break activities occur in the month of March.
 - Thousands of students from all over the U.S. converge on Texas beaches and entertainment districts.
 - Most operations use grant funds to pay for overtime.

- Operations include SXSW and Houston Rodeo patrols.
- Spring Break Operations
 - Covert
 - Focused on detecting underage and intoxicated-related offenses.
 - May include cooperative retail operations (e.g., COPS, fake-out).
 - COPS – Agents pose as store operators to catch minors using fake IDs
 - Fake out – Agents pose as bouncers to identify fake IDs at bars.
 - May target other organized criminal activities such as narcotics and human trafficking.
 - Time consuming and expensive.
 - Underage Compliance Operations (“minor stings”)
 - Undercover operation to identify businesses that sell alcohol to minors.
 - Locations include major travel routes to spring break hot spots and locations near major universities.
 - TABC auditors provided education to businesses before underage compliance operations.
 - Undercover minors required to look young (no facial hair, tattoos, piercings). This should be an easy test to pass for store operators.
 - High visibility Inspections
 - Visible presence during large events to deter criminal activity.
- Spring Break Operational results
 - No. of Undercover Operations: 254 retailers
 - No. of Underage Compliance Operations: 1983
 - No. of Open Inspections: 1468
 - No. of Administrative Violations: 92
 - No. of Criminal Violations: 87
 - No. of Arrests: 9
 - No. of Critical Incidents: 0
 - No. of Overtime Hours: 1316
- Question: Why have I seen local police agencies engage in underage compliance operations?
 - Local police agencies can run their own operations, but TABC cannot take administrative or criminal action if the operation does not meet their standards.
 - Advise your local agency to meet with TABC before any operations begin to confirm it meets TABCs standard so administrative and criminal action can be taken.
- Question: Criminal versus administrative action?
 - Administrative – TABC can impose administrative penalties such as fines, suspensions, or revocations of licenses and permits. These actions are taken when a licensee violates the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code or TABC rules.
 - Criminal – TABC officers have the authority to enforce criminal laws related to the sale and consumption of alcohol. This includes

investigating and taking action against illegal activities such as the sale of alcohol to minors, illegal sales without a license, and other criminal violations of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

- Impaired Driving Enforcement Training and Detection **Carlos Champion**
 - TxSFST, FRIDAY, & DITEP
 - Total Classes
 - SFST 24hr: 7
 - SFST Inst: 4
 - Refresher: 105
 - Adv. DWI: 13
 - FRIDAY: 3
 - DITEP 16 hr: 16
 - DITEP 8 hr: 7
 - Total Trainees
 - SFST 24 hr: 96
 - SFST Inst: 41
 - Refresher: 796
 - Adv. DWI: 161
 - FRIDAY: 60
 - DITEP 16 hr: 301
 - DITEP 8 hr: 257
 - The Texas SFST, FRIDAY, & DITEP programs are focusing on training where the highest number of KA crashes and police officers are located.
 - Demand for the SFST 24HR is increasing. Many police officers may not have had SFST training since academy and police departments are looking to retrain their officers.
 - Texas DRE/ARIDE
 - Currently, there are 422 DREs. In October 2021, there were 297 (30% increase).
 - Currently, 43 DRE Instructors. There is an Instructor Development Course in Round Rock in September. There is a significant need to mentor new instructors as attrition continues.
 - Currently, 134 agencies with a DRE in the department. There were only 97 agencies with a DRE in October of 2021 (28% increase).
 - Expecting 150 agencies after upcoming trainings.
 - Good way to increase the availability of a DRE evaluation.
 - Recent DRE Schools: San Antonio (October 2023), Pasadena (April 2024), Plano (May 2024), Amarillo (May 2024)
 - Texas is #2 in ARIDE classes behind California
 - FY 24: 46 completed and 4 more scheduled
 - If people request DRE school, they will try and accommodate
 - [Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Annual Report – 2023](#)
 - Texas is moving its way up the ranking for total number of DREs
 - In 2022, Texas ranked #7 (335 DREs).
 - In 2023, Texas ranked #5 (365 DREs).
 - Texas is moving its way up the ranking for total number of DRE evaluations
 - In 2022, Texas ranked #15 (439 evaluations).

- In 2023, Texas ranked #9 (599 evaluations). This number has already increased to 643 since January 2024 when these report numbers were published.
 - Getting DREs to submit evaluations has been difficult. Working to emphasize the importance of inputting DRE evaluation reports into the system in a timely manner.
 - SFST in Texas
 - Refresher: SFST training used to be under just one agency. However, about 20 years ago, anyone who became a certified SFST instructor was then allowed to deliver the course. There is no oversight for these instructor courses. There are some SFST instructors (who charge class fees) that are not following the SFST manual and therefore training officers incorrectly. This hurts the validity of the SFST and credibility in court when an officer does not conduct the proper steps in the manual. The TxIDTF will continue to explore how to best close this loophole and bring SFST trainings back to uniformity across Texas.
- Impaired Driving Data **Jim Markham**
 - Statewide DUI Arrest Database
 - Initial discussions conducted since annual TxIDTF meeting
 - Probably looks like a DIR-managed central repository
 - Next steps: Drafting a white-paper on what the system would need to contain, who would need to administer it, where it should be housed, and then farming that paper to TxIDTF and TRCC stakeholders to produce a memo explaining why it should be done.
 - Public versus protected data. Texas has the largest public crash record repository, but some records may be protected (such as arrest records). Need to figure out how to integrate public and protected data sources.
 - NHTSA State Traffic Records Assessment Program (STRAP) evaluation initial results
 - Crash: 26 Meets Advisory Ideal; 12 Partially Meets Ideal; 10 Does Not Meet Ideal
 - Several measures will move 'up' following uploads of additional information or justifications.
 - Some advisory ideals cannot logistically be met.
 - Association of Traffic Safety Information Professionals (ATSIP) Traffic Records Forum August 11-14 San Diego CA
 - Presentations across the breadth of traffic safety information topics, including an updated brief – “A Sober Discussion of Crash Data” which Jim presented at the Texas Impaired Driving Forum
 - If TxIDTF members have any questions for other states or federal agencies, please let Jim know so he can ask in-person.
 - Registration is still open if you have travel funds available.
 - Updates that have been discussed for the CR-3 form are expected to be implemented on 1/1/2026.
 - To address the suspected over-estimation issue with FARS data in the Texas Impaired Driving Plan, the word “estimates” was used to describe FARS data.

12:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

Language Barriers – Judge Hand Potter County

Troy Walden

- Refresher: At the July 2023 TxIDTF meeting, Judge Matthew Hand, Potter County, raised an important issue: DWI Education is a probation requirement for intoxication related offenses, but courses are only available in English and Spanish. It is not equitable to waive the requirement for non-English/Spanish speaking populations. Although, Judge Hand was specifically raising this issue for the large Burmese and Somali refugee populations who have settled in Amarillo, there are other non-English/Spanish speaking populations to consider across the state. The TxIDTF convened a subcommittee to further discuss the issue of equity in DWI Education probation requirements for non-English/Spanish speakers. The subcommittee explored alternative solutions, with the aim of reducing recidivism by increasing attendance in these educational courses.
- Judge Hand (Potter County Court at Law #2) and Natalie White (Potter County CSCD Director) joined the task force via Microsoft Teams to provide an update on their situation in Potter County and discussion after Troy's presentation.
 - Natalie has been working closely with the Refugee Language Project to secure grant funding for interpretation services. Refugee Language Project was awarded a discretionary grant from the Amarillo Area Foundation in the amount of \$150,000.
 - The Refugee Language Project will develop a Community Interpreter course specifically focused on speakers of minority languages in the Texas Panhandle. The grant will also enable the collection of legal terminology for languages such as Oromo (Somali), Kinyamulenge (Congo), Karen (Myanmar), and Pashto (Afghanistan).
 - The number of non-English/Spanish speaking defendants varies. Currently, Potter County has 14 non-English/Spanish speaking defendants and 6 are required to attend an alcohol education course.
 - Natalie has spoken with other CSCD Directors across the State and they are dealing with similar issues with non-English/Spanish speaking populations.
- Reducing Recidivism: [Language Barriers Related to Court Ordered Alcohol Education in Texas](#) (White Paper)
 - Language Barriers Context: As the population of Texas becomes more diverse, courts are facing a significant challenge when ordering alcohol offender education since there is no adequate access to training in other languages.
 - There are 31 million people living in Texas (*Statistics Atlas, 2024*)
 - 17% (5.3 million) of these people were born outside of the U.S.
 - More than 1/3 speak another language other than English (*Migration Policy Institute, 2023*)
 - 164 different languages are spoken in our state (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2020*)
 - Purpose of Investigation:
 - To investigate barriers to effective language communication among defendants ordered to attend and complete court ordered alcohol education as a condition of sentencing.
 - To assess and recommend potential solutions to courts for addressing language barriers for instructors and participants of

court ordered alcohol education.

- Methodology:
 - Examined State legislative regulations
 - Examined instructional modes of course delivery to participants
 - Examined reasonable accommodations for non-English speaking/writing students
 - Examined alternative instructional methods to reach learner groups
- The court ordered alcohol education courses and information on instructors is based on information provided in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 90. Any considerations related to these courses or instructors must meet or exceed the requirements set out in the TAC.
- The Manager of the Education and Examination Division of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) provided the following insight of TDLR's administrative oversight of the court ordered education program. TDLR recognizes that instructor and participant language barriers are a significant issue facing alcohol offender court ordered education.
 - TDLR does not consider an interpreter who relays training content to participants in their native language as an instructor.
 - TDLR recognizes judicial discretion in ordering or not ordering alcohol education as a condition of sentencing.
 - TDLR recognizes instructors and participant language barriers is a significant issue.
 - TDLR does not have necessary staff or fiscal resources to provide translation or interpretive services for all languages.
 - A critical list of languages should be identified and translated first based upon populations most likely to be reached.
 - TDLR recommends the courts work with TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialists and local language banks for interpretation and translation services.
- Practical solutions were identified to address languages barrier issues related to court ordered alcohol education. There are various products and approaches available, however, the potential solutions can be organized into three distinct groups.
 - Interpreter Based
 - A trained interpreter is present (face-to-face or virtually)
 - One interpreter will be assigned to each language represented other than English
 - Participant listens to the interrupter using headphones
 - Translation of written and/or visual materials would need to be in addition to the interpreter managing the verbal delivery
 - May significantly impact the participant's ability to engage in class activities
 - Personal Applications (Apps)
 - Phone and/or laptop-based applications that interprets verbal communication for the individual user
 - The participant listens to interrupter using headphones or

- reads on device screen
 - Translation of written and/or visual materials would need to be in addition to the interpreter managing the verbal delivery
 - May significantly impact the participant's ability to engage in class activities
- Translation
 - Curriculum would be provided in a translated format prepared in advance
 - For video or virtual content, the verbal communication would be provided with closed caption in their language of choice
 - Visual content and other course materials would be provided to the participant in their language of choice in a digital or paper format
- There are two major types of virtual education deliver modes: Synchronous and Asynchronous.
 - Synchronous: Learning with others at the same time either in a face-to-face or virtual classroom environment
 - Difficult to communicate content in more than one language
 - Difficult for non-English learner to consume content
 - Instructor monitors attendance and engagement
 - Course completion is tracked by instructor or training provider
 - Asynchronous Learning at the participants own pace using online resources (ex: video, slides, audio) provided through the learning management system (LMS)
 - Time in content can be included in course to match class requirements
 - Digital resources allow for content to be delivered in the language selected by the learner
 - Attendance and engagement are monitored digitally through the LMS
 - Course completion is maintained by the LMS and accessible
 - **Requires modification to current TDLR polices including administrative requirements for asynchronous delivery**
 - Benefits: Flexible, Adaptable, Quality Control, Standardized to State Requirements
- The Language Barrier Subcommittee reviewed various translation/interpretation approaches (ZipDX, Boostlingo/Voiceboxer, Google Translate, Canvas Learning Management System)
 - It was determined that Canvas LMS may be the best option for quality assurance, cost, and adaptability.
- Next Steps:
 - The Texas Impaired Driving Task Force should continue to work with TDLR and the State court/judicial associations.
 - Continue to assess the viability of using CANVAS or a similar virtual LMS that offers court ordered alcohol education content in

a diverse set of languages.

- Ordinarily prioritize, by census data, languages best suited to reach large populations of offenders needing court ordered alcohol education.

Cannabis & Alcohol Subcommittee

Clay Abbott
Christine Adams

- May Meeting Update
 - Discussed Upcoming TX Senate State Affairs Committee Hearing
 - Banning Delta 8 and 9: Examine the sale of intoxicating hemp products in Texas. Make recommendations to further regulate the sale of these products and suggest legislation to stop retailers who market these products to children.
 - [Cannabis Regulators Association \(CANNRA\): Best Practices and Guidance for Regulating Cannabinoids for Safety](#)
- June Meeting Update
 - TX Senate State Affairs Committee Hearing Review
 - Senator Perry, author of the Texas Agriculture Bill, is very concerned with this topic. Many senators are seeking solutions for youth protections.
 - Compassionate Use Program Providers are in strong opposition to hemp derived consumable products – lack of regulations
 - Department of State Health Services does not have enough resources
 - Started with 4.2 FTEs; 2002 – 6.2 FTEs; Recently added 6 more for total of 12 FTEs
 - 642 Licensed Manufacturers; 3,633 Registrations; 7,082 Retail Locations
 - Inspections every 5 years; will be every 3 years with new employees
 - Important: Need to identify verbiage that includes all problematic hemp-derived products – not just Delta 8 and 9. DO NOT use “intoxicating” as this is in DWI statute. “Psychoactive” or “impairing” are acceptable solutions.
 - [Video Link](#) (starts at 7:41 mark)
 - Louisiana Legislation – [House Bill 952](#): Consumable Hemp Products (CHP) Compromise (1/1/25)
 - Age Restrictions – 21 or older to purchase
 - Products inaccessible to public without assistance
 - No sales at retail with gas or motor fuel
 - No products for inhalation (including vapes)
 - No new CHP permits issued to bars and restaurants
 - Serving Sizes: 5mg THC per serving; no more than 40mg per package
 - Beverages: no more than 5mg THC; not less than 12oz.
- July Meeting Update
 - Department of State Health Services
 - Revised Questions for Submission. Christine to submit to DSHS soon.
 - THC-A and [HHC](#) – DEA Clarification

- DEA has ruled that THCA and HHC do not meet the definition of legal hemp. *Note: there is controversy on if HHC occurs naturally in the plant. If new information is published, the DEA will reevaluate the control status at that time.*
- Maryland – [Rules for Consumption Lounges](#)
 - An on-site consumption establishment *may not allow the consumption of alcohol* on the licensed premise.
- Texas Monthly Article: [Texas Has Basically Legalized Marijuana. We Have the Proof. \(texasmonthly.com\)](#)
 - 8 products tested, all over 0.3% Delta 9 THC
- Next Subcommittee meeting will be in August. Let [Christine](#) know if you would like to join.

3:00 PM

Conclusion and Adjournment