
Meeting Notes

- 10:00 AM Welcome Introductions **Larry Krantz**
- Expressed appreciation for the team’s work on the assessment.
- TxDOT Update **David Palmer**
- Drugged-Driving Campaigns
 - TxDOT executed a revised contract with Sherry Matthews Group to expand impaired driving campaigns to include drug impairment.
 - Task Force will support education for campaign vendors
 - Emphasized need for campaigns to reach correct demographics and have strong impact.
 - FY27 proposal review process underway; staff evaluation training completed.
 - In addition to an extended submission timeline, having the flexibility to discuss proposal topics with TxDOT Program Managers significantly helped applicants.
- 10:15 AM Quarterly Updates **Jim Markham**
- Impaired Driving Data
 - **CR 4 Update (Jan 1):**
 - New digital crash report auto populates only relevant sections and keeps relevant sections together for easier reference.
 - Two new mandatory questions for fatal/serious injuries:
 - Alcohol related?
 - Drug related?
 - Expect clearer data by 2029 when NHTSA closes out the dataset.
 - **Data Gaps Identified:**
 - Pedestrian and single-vehicle cases often lack toxicology testing.
 - Underrepresentation continues in intoxication-related data.
 - **Agencies can request access to AASHTOWARE Safety Data**
 - Government agencies can request access through Jim to see this data.
 - LEADRS Update **Brian Grubbs**
 - LEADRS originally developed to reduce 4–5-hour DWI reporting process.

- Holds 250,000+ DWI reports (2025) with SFST, BAC, and arrest indicators.
 - Data is independent of adjudication outcomes – if the information is on the arrest report, repeat offenders can be identified.
- Dashboards now available for officers and trainers.
- Examples of Ways to Use This Data:
 - Identifying impairment indicators at BAC levels <0.08.
 - Supporting national conversations about 0.05 vs 0.08 BAC impairment thresholds.
 - Enhancing law-enforcement strategies and recognizing drug-impaired driving.
- DRE Integration:
 - All DRE evaluations required to be entered into LEADRS beginning Jan 1, 2026.
 - 5,000 DRE evals already entered.
 - Toxicology + DRE data available; more complete than previous federal system (shutting down March).
- Data Use in Enforcement Planning:
 - Maps identify areas with high crash rates but low arrests.
 - Example: Lewisville shifted enforcement due to lack of highway shoulders during and after construction work on I-35.
- Pilots with Amarillo PD and Round Rock PD on data analytics.
 - Case disposition data (~60,000 cases) being added through automated court-record downloads.
- Working toward bridging OCA and CJIS data for a full system picture.

- Law Enforcement

Carlos Champion

- CNS depressants most often detected because officers recognize those signs best.
- Encouraged officers needing refreshers to attend:
 - **24-hour SFST course** (recommended)
 - **8-hour SFST refresher**
- Growth in DRE presence:
 - 159 agencies now have DREs (up from 94 in 2021).
- San Antonio PD experiencing turnover in DWI/DRE units; planning a DRE school.
- DRE Instructor Conclave scheduled for March 2026.
- NHTSA assessment hopeful for a recommendation centralizing SFST training under state coordinator.

- Hemp Policy Updates

Nicole Holt

- [TABC](#) released temporary rules; final rules pending.
 - Nicole and others submitted written and verbal comments.
 - Continued recommendation for **25+ age restriction** due to brain development and psychosis risks.
- [DSHS](#) draft rules released (Title 25 Health Services starting on page 71-85 of the document)
- Significant changes proposed:

- Licensing fees increasing from ~\$150 to **\$5,000–\$20,000 per location**.
 - Concern about lack of enforcement capacity or funding.
 - Many intoxicating products remain on shelves; loopholes exploited.
 - **Federal level:** Loophole closure scheduled for Nov 2026; industry lobbying for extension to 2027.
 - **SB 2024:** Removed intoxicating vape products from shelves; ongoing compliance monitoring and LE training underway.
 - TxSDY Lunch and Learns on this topic coming in mid-March. Registration details will be shared by Nicole.
 - Separate alcohol and cannabis licenses are required to sell products.
 - While TABC cannot regulate cannabis licenses directly, it can take administrative action on alcohol licenses. Under current code, non-compliance related to cannabis products could jeopardize a business's alcohol license.
 - Agencies are still working to determine an effective compliance-check model.

- Prosecution

Clay Abbott

- Annual Task Force meeting with top prosecutors; minutes can be found [here](#).
- Post-COVID recovery:
- Prosecutor numbers increased from ~2,200 back to nearly 3,800.
- Rural DWI prosecution rates rebounding.
- Strong recommendation against roadside saliva testing for arrest decisions; more appropriate for probation/bond.
- Toxicology turnaround times improving.
- SFST program complaints minimal; DRE availability increasing.

12:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

FY2026 Task Force Events

Christine Adams

- Impaired Driving Forum
 - March 25 - Embassy Suites
 - [Information](#)
 - [Register](#)
 - Confirmed Speaker review
 - Forum Program and schedule review
- March 26, 2026 – Task Force Meeting, San Marcos – Embassy Suites
 - Statewide Impaired Driving Task Force Administrators (4) to join
 - Start working collaboratively on drug-impaired driving
 - Impaired Driving Plan
 - Time to start drafting again
 - New set of recommendations to include
 - Working groups in afternoon at March Task Force meeting to discuss
- Assessment Questions and Testimony – Review Comments
 - SHSP Impaired Driving Emphasis Area:

- Assessment revealed misalignment between SHSP and IDP.
- Opportunities for Task Force members to participate in the EA.
- Concerns about lack of visibility on treatment related components.
- Working Groups if necessary
- Additional Updates
 - Military/Veterans Engagement:
 - Need a military representative on the Task Force.
 - Interest in understanding why base SafeRide programs disbanded.
 - Contacts for veterans and treatment courts being gathered

3:00 PM

Conclusion and Adjournment

