
Meeting Notes

10:00 AM

Welcome Introductions

Larry Krantz

Thanked Task Force members for their engagement and contributions, particularly their participation in the Impaired Driving Forum.

The TxIDTF Membership welcomed guests and external partners in attendance:

- Eric Goode – Community Justice Assistance Division
- David Bernstein – Minnesota Impaired Driving Task Force
- Amity Jeffries – Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety
- Meg Matta – Nevada Impaired Driving Task Force

TxDOT Update

David Palmer

- Emphasized the shared goal of alignment and cohesion around reducing impaired driving and saving lives
- Noted the growing challenge of polysubstance impaired driving, with particular concern around cannabis packaging and accessibility
- Discussed ongoing drugged-impaired driving campaign efforts, including increased focus on cannabis and polysubstance messaging
- Reminded members of [the Traffic Safety Conference](#) (Addison, TX - July 14–17)
- Highlighted recent improvements to eGrants, which were well received by the group
- Provided updates on grant modifications and anticipated timelines
- Noted recurring themes across assessment responses and emphasized the value of collective engagement

10:10 AM

Statewide Impaired Driving Task Force Administrators Discussion with Texas Task Force Members

David Bernstein – Minnesota Impaired Driving Task Force

Amity Jeffries – Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety

Meg Matta – Nevada Impaired Driving Task Force

- Administrators from multiple states shared experiences related to drug- and polysubstance-impaired driving, highlighting common challenges across jurisdictions.
- Discussed differences in how task forces engage in legislative work:
 - Some states operate as volunteer organizations with flexibility to engage legislators directly
 - Others are constrained due to state employment status and instead

- support legislative efforts through information sharing
- Emphasized the importance of relationship-building with legislators, prosecutors, and judicial stakeholders
- Shared approaches used by various states, including:
 - Developing bill drafts, posted to the task force website
 - Elevating task force recommendations through Advisory Boards
 - Maintaining momentum by re-introducing priority policy items across legislative cycles
- Discussed involvement of defense attorneys, including benefits, challenges, and the importance of resolving disagreements internally prior to public debate

Cannabis, Hemp, and “Green Lab” Discussions

- Multiple states described green lab initiatives used to educate officers, judges, and policymakers on cannabis impairment.
- Key themes included:
 - THC potency today differs significantly from prior decades, creating training gaps
 - “THC is THC,” regardless of source (marijuana or hemp derivatives)
 - Importance of proactive legislative conversations to avoid misclassification debates (controlled vs. intoxicating substances)
- States with legalized cannabis noted:
 - Strict separation between alcohol and cannabis sales
 - Zero tolerance for underage access
 - Clear, “open-container-style” restrictions for vehicles
- Texas-specific concerns included:
 - Lack of clear enforcement authority for hemp products
 - Ongoing litigation related to vape bans and hemp rules
 - Need for legislative clarity and additional enforcement resources

Ride-Share and Impaired Driving

- Discussed concerns related to impaired ride-share drivers and the lack of regulatory parity with CDL requirements
- Compared regulations of taxi drivers versus ride-share drivers
- Agreed to conduct additional research prior to the August meeting to determine whether other states have addressed this issue legislatively or through policy

11:10 AM

Quarterly Updates

Judge Weiser

- Judicial Bond
 - 2026 Criminal Justice Conference
 - Judicial training addressed impaired driving case considerations related to DRE testimony, judicial responsibilities and best practices before and after conviction, and constitutional issues involving evidence
 - 2026 DWI Court Team Training – Basic and Advanced
 - Covered drug testing, supervision best practices, screening and assessment processes, recovery-oriented approaches, and

considerations for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders

- Upcoming Trainings:
 - *2026 Regional Conferences (2)*: Will address voir dire practices in DWI cases, the science behind retrograde extrapolation, and key charging issues judges should understand in impaired driving cases
 - *DWI Summits Floresville and Marble Falls*: Focus on bond decision-making and conditions, key pre-trial considerations, supervision and monitoring tools, and scenario-based discussions
 - *DWI Symposium – Boerne, TX*: Will address impaired driving bond decisions balancing judicial discretion, due process, and public safety, along with case law and legislative updates, specialized topics such as boating while intoxicated, cannabis-related impairment, women impaired drivers, and facilitated scenario discussions
- Emphasized the ongoing need for judicial education related to post-legislative bond changes

- Prosecution / Alcohol & THC Subcommittee

Clay Abbott

- [Prosecutor trainings](#) are filling quickly; regional trainings are ongoing
- Discussed draft Task Force recommendations related to hemp THC sales and regulation – more discussion to follow
- Highlighted key messaging priorities:
 - Dosage consistency
 - Differences between alcohol and cannabis impairment
 - Risks associated with unregulated products
- Noted increased coordination with TxDOT, Sherry Matthews Group, and the Ad Council on drug-impaired driving messaging

- Education and Prevention

Emma Dugas

- Prevention and education approaches are based on evidence-based best practices
- Efforts underway to:
 - Engage School Resource Officers through TASRO conferences
 - Develop alcohol and drug fact sheets for youth and adults
 - Expand outreach to community and youth programs
- Discussed opportunity for cross-collaboration with Cannabis and Alcohol Subcommittee to align underage drinking and substance-use prevention efforts, develop shared educational resources on cannabis and alcohol, support implementation of [SB 826](#), and coordinate with law enforcement and community partners on tools addressing intoxicating vapes.
- Subcommittee welcomes ideas and collaboration from Task Force members.

- Provided an overview of the four DPS Crime Laboratory teams supporting impaired driving cases: breath alcohol, certified reference materials (CRM), blood alcohol, and drug toxicology
- **Breath Alcohol Testing Program:** DPS is implementing a new calibration method and Intoxilyzer firmware updates to meet ASB 055 standards, with phased implementation underway and full statewide deployment expected by Fall 2027.
- **Breath Alcohol CRM Laboratory:** Enhancements are underway to support ASB 055 implementation, including new equipment validation, measurement traceability, and expanded personnel training.
- **Blood Alcohol Testing:** A standardized analytical method is now in place across all eight lab locations, with over 95% of cases completed within 30 days; an electronic discovery portal is planned for Fall 2026 to streamline access to records.
- **Drug Toxicology:** Hiring is complete and training is ongoing, with facility renovations underway to expand capacity. Average case age has decreased, with limited outsourcing continuing during the transition.
- **Drug Trends:** Recent data indicate Delta-9 THC and/or metabolites as the most frequently identified category, followed by methamphetamine and/or Amphetamine, Cocaine and/or Cocaine Metabolites, Alprazolam and/or NPS Benzos, and Delta-8 THC and/or Metabolites; improved regional reporting is expected as in-house capacity increases.

12:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

Review of Assessment Recommendations

Christine Adams

- Thanked Task Force members for extensive participation in the assessment and testimony
- Shared that assessors commended the Task Force's involvement
- Report edits are underway; final report forthcoming
- Reviewed the process for updating the Impaired Driving Plan, including:
 - Tracking and responding to recommendations
 - Identifying areas already addressed versus those requiring further action
- Facilitated discussion of NHTSA recommendations among the Task Force
- Confirmed that stakeholder working groups will continue this work

2:00 PM

Stakeholder Working Group – Impaired Driving Plan

- *Task Force & Strategic Planning*
- *Prevention*
- *Enforcement*
- *Criminal Justice*
- *Communication*
- *Program Evaluation & Data*
- Working groups were asked to discuss strategies for addressing the new recommendations, identify additional stakeholders who could support

successful implementation, and review or suggest revisions to the recommendation narratives as time allowed.

3:00 PM

Conclusion and Adjournment

