

Meeting Notes

10:00 AM Welcome: Introductions

TxDOT Update

Larry Krantz

- Executive Committee Member Update
 - NHTSA has recommended that Texas should establish a DWI tracking database. This effort will require data and input from several sources. Brian Grubbs has graciously recommended stepping down from the TxIDTF Executive Committee. Jim Markham, Director of TxDOT's Crash Data Analysis section has agreed to serve as the Executive Committee (EC) member for Impaired Driving Data. Brian will continue to provide valuable representation of the LEADRS program on the TxIDTF and ultimately the establishment of a tracking system.
 - Or. Charles Mathias has accepted a position at Rice University and does not have the capacity to participate on the task force. We appreciate his service and wish him the best with his new role. Dr. Troy Walden has agreed to serve as the EC member representing Research. Thank you to Dr. Walden for stepping in to fill this role.
- DWI Tracking Database
 - Looking forward into fiscal year 25, there are projects that have been recommended for funding by TxDOT that will address establishing a DWI tracking database. If approved, the DWI tracking database will be built around the LEADRS model, as that program is an excellent foundation. A new subcommittee will be convened to work on this effort. It will be a collaborative effort between members of the TxIDTF and the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC).

New Business: Christine Adams

- Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) Invitation
 - Lt. Kevin Harris delivered the invitation to TPCA at their last meeting. The invitation was accepted and representatives from TPCA will join future task force meetings.
- Review NHTSA Recommendations from February Meeting
 - Legislative Support: MADD, Smart Start, Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth, and National Safety Council. These organizations can lobby if there is a need.
 - Military / Veteran Representation: Emma Dugas (MADD) is working with Responsibility.org for a contact in Texas. Jim Markham (TxDOT) would also like to participate in this effort.
 - School Resource Officers (SRO): The prevention subcommittee will brainstorm how to support SROs at their next subcommittee meeting.
 - Tribal Contacts: Several members discussed their work with tribal representatives. There was a concern about NHTSA regulations

that could impede interaction with the tribes. Carol Campa (TxDOT) offered to ask at her next NHTSA meeting how we should proceed on this topic.

10:30 AM Quarterly Updates

Impaired Driving Database - LEADRS

- **Brian Grubbs**
- Chris Clements, recently retired Assistant Chief of Lewisville Police
 Department was invited to present. He has utilized LEADRS for most of
 his career as an officer, and knows the system well.
- Lewisville has an agency STEP program Brian described how their data looks compared to TxDOT-funded STEP programs.
- Data does have integration with TABC. LEADRS prompts officers to answer if the driver left a business that serves alcohol.
- ***911 calls to dispatch are the number 1 reason officers know to go check on a potential impaired driver
- LEADRS provides real world data that is not simulated, which is unattainable if done by a study (where BAC levels are suppressed and not a true representation of what officers see on the streets); helpful when validating SFSTs
- Can use this data to evaluate officers after they are trained
- LEADRS is collecting driving behaviors based on what they are seeing in SFSTs, which increases officers' credibility and helps identify driving behaviors that are consistent with offenses.
- No arrest decisions? Way to track that with SFST investigations? Is there
 value in that; is it worth pursuing? Getting the BAC is the problem.
 - Response to inquiry above: Is valuable. Could say not only did we take the impaired drivers off the road, but also let the innocents free as well. The tests conducted allowed for proper assessment of their decision-making. Validates benefits of project for arrests and releasing those who are innocent. Makes it a more robust project.
- TxDOT is fielding agency use of uploading data to eGrants
- Also tracks attitude / clothing of defendant
- Access to data right now LE agencies only right now; want to continue getting LE buy in before they release it to the public

Forensic Testing

Trevis Beckworth

- Toxicology Blood kit shortage; vendor supply chain issue. They are back in stock now. If LE agencies need some, let them know they are back in stock. Will allow use of 3rd party supplied kits while stock depleted
- Average of 94% of blood alcohol reports are released in 30 days or less through DPS lab
- Working to train more breath test operators; class offered through DPS for free generally. They'll bring it to your jurisdiction. Classes listed on website.
- New facility construction underway. August of '25 to be fully completed, working to hire more, but right now, there is no room to house new employees.
- Drug tox outsourcing → ~1800; processes are slightly different, trying to make those ways mesh – ensure the reports get to right people, logistics associated. THC validation – want THC method to be more robust. Been outsourcing THC for now, but close to DPS processing
 - Delta 8 in method now, also attempting Delta 10

- Clay mentioned that TX does the best job in the country to date. Cannabinoids are time consuming and huge # of resources are used. TX is way in front. Want to be in that position; haven't always had the right instrumentation but want to be set up for future. Responsive.
- Records portal for all crime labs in state bill from last session.
 Administrative rules big lift on forensic partners. Mandated by DPS to complete digitizing records and add them to portal. Working to do this now time consuming task.
- o Innovation and Data office has been created recently.
- Start from a date and move forward for the portal if prior data doesn't go into portal, it will still be digitized.

Treatment/Prevention/Research

Troy Walden

- Research paper review: risk of motor vehicle collision with cannabis and alcohol among patients presenting for emergency care.
 - Cross-sectional experimental design
 - Should have focused on just Delta-9 because some metabolites may have been detected, but they are not actually impairing substances.
 - May be some bias built in because of self-reporting metrics.
 - Cannabis stores into fats; Alcohol is water soluble testing is different for the 2 substances.
 - Plasma is more water-based than lipophilic. Whole sample of blood may have provided more attributes for analysis.
 - Looking into the time-periods of testing for THC after crashes would be interesting to learn more about how alcohol and cannabinoids interact.
- Language Barrier Subcommittee Troy has drafted the white paper on language barriers and it is under review by the subcommittee
- o Prevention Subcommittee

Nicole Holt

- Approach: Spectrum of Prevention (from CDC)
- Acknowledging health impacts of excessive alcohol use
- Identifying "what is in it for them?" Important to include key informants and stakeholders > strategic partnerships
- Moderate drinkers make up bulk of impaired driving problem according to the Drinker's pyramid
- Friedan's Health Pyramid The bulk of improvements can be made in the environmental aspects because they effect the most people. Ex: removing dangerous products, increasing alcohol excise tax, reducing access, restricting advertising.
- Intervening variables: retail, enforcement, social access, perceptions, norms, promotion, and pricing
- Strategic collaborations use an alignment tool to "set the work that is to be done" and identify how what you're trying to do resonates and aligns with various stakeholders. This is how to receive buy-in.
- Important to implement population-based strategies and interventions.

Prosecution/Legislative

Clay Abbott

- No signal that a lot will be done related to traffic safety in the upcoming legislative session.
- Legislative subcommittee will have questions, prosecutors will have questions / present best practices, etc. Now is the time to ask. (October is the meeting)
- Cannabis & Alcohol Subcommittee

Christine Adams

- THC Seltzer Vendors numbers from Nov meeting to February meeting (bars and restaurants); 47 to 101
- Subcommittee updates, concerns to address, action items;
 reviewed conversations with Dept. of Agriculture, DPS, Tennessee
- THC-A: once combusted, THC, no longer below 0.3%
- DSHS Rules overview and asking them questions
- Dan Patrick's office state affairs committee to examine banning Delta-8 and Delta-9 (should be Delta-10) - 2024 interim legislative charges
- Subcommittee meeting in May:
 - Any members want to be in the cannabis and alcohol subcommittee? Reach out to Christine.
 - Topics to exploring:
 - Brian has data can share (in relation to written questions to DSHS)
 - Cannabis / THC Workshop? pending further discussion

12:00 PM **LUNCH**

1:00 PM

Breakout Groups: 2024 Texas Impaired Driving Plan

- Critical Dates:
 - April 30 Final integrations to the Editor
 - May 15 No further changes will be accepted
 - May 20 Send to Executive Committee (EC)
 - Please review final 2024 Impaired Driving Plan
 - May 30 Signatures DUE from EC
 - May 31 Final 2024 IDP submitted to TxDOT
- The membership broke out into stakeholder groups to provide round two revisions to the 2024 Texas Impaired Driving Plan.

3:00 PM Conclusion and Adjournment

