Building Coalitions: Texas Impaired Driving Task Force

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Texas Impaired Driving Task Force

*Why do we exist?*

- We believe that we can significantly improve traffic safety
- We believe that we can eliminate impaired driving
- We believe that we can affect change more efficiently as a collection of concerned stakeholders and program partners
- We believe that one life saved is worth our strongest effort
What is a Coalition?

- A diverse group of individuals and organizations who work together to reach a common goal or achieve a desired purpose

**Goals often include:**
- Adapting, creating, or developing strategic thrusts
- Influencing people or certain behaviors
- Building a healthy community
Texas Impaired Driving Task Force

- Began as an informal meeting
- Evolved over the last 10 years
- Meets twice a year
  - Austin: Task Force Workshop (Fall)
  - Austin: Task Force Workshop & Impaired Driving Forum (Spring)
- Discuss progress toward eliminating alcohol and drug related crashes and injuries through stakeholder work projects (Jointly & Subcommittees)
- Provides guidance & technical assistance to TxDOT’s alcohol and other drug countermeasure program
Texas Impaired Driving Task Force

Members include representatives from:
law enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, prevention, advocacy, media development/communications, traffic safety education, treatment, research, training, alcohol service, driver licensing, employers, administrative sanctioning, and public health/medical

The members represent different aspects of the impaired driving issue as well as the geographic and demographic diversity of the state
Task Force Members

- AAA Texas & New Mexico
- Alamo Area Council of Governments
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Training
- Austin Police Department
- Baylor Scott & White Health — RED Program
- Bell/Lampasas Counties Community Supervision & Corrections Department
- Brazos Valley Injury Prevention Coalition
- College Station Police Department
- Education Service Center — Region 6
- Enviro Media
- Focus on Reducing Impaired Driving Among Youth
- Galveston County District Attorney’s Office
- GDC Marketing & Ideation
- Harris County District Attorney’s Office
- Law Enforcement Mobile Video Institute — University of Houston Downtown
- MADD
- Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
- Law Enforcement Advanced DUI/DWI Reporting System
- National Injury Prevention Council
- National Safety Council
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- SafeWay Driving Systems
- Sam Houston State University
- Smart Start, Inc.
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training Program
- Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office
- Teens in the Driver Seat
- Texans Standing Tall
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
- Texas Association of Counties
- Texas Center for the Judiciary
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas District and County Attorneys Association
- Texas Justice Court Training Center
- Texas Municipal Courts Education Center
- Travis County Attorney’s Office
- U in the Driver Seat
What are We Doing?

**Educating**
- Providing resources at the state and local level
  - Statewide Impaired Driving Plan; Uniform guidelines for impaired driving programs; Texas Impaired Driving Program assessment; Drug impaired driving; Evidence based programs for educators
  - Information graphics & Powerpoint’s for presentations
- Creating awareness about the impaired driving issue by:
  - Educating citizens through educator toolkits; Traditional trainings; Peer-to-peer group interaction; Employer education programs; and Media outreach campaigns

**Enforcing**
- Stepping up enforcement efforts through:
  - Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grants and
  - Impaired driving mobilization grants
  - No refusal weekends with high visibility enforcement

**Collaborating**
- Groups like the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force and statewide coalitions are creating partnerships to attack the problem from many different angles
Thinking About Starting a Community Coalition?

- Create a core group
- Identify important potential partners for membership
- Recruit members to the coalition (consider gaps)
- Plan and hold a first meeting
- Follow up on the first meeting
- Continue with next steps
  - Distribute minutes
  - Set agenda for next coalition meeting date
  - Stay focused on the “big picture” reason for why the coalition exists
- Re-evaluate as you proceed moving forward
Thank You

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