

Texas Private Security Advisory Committee (TPSAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:02 a.m. on April 8, 2020 via conference call.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Patti James	Chairwoman	Private Investigator Representative
Alan Trevino		Security Officer Representative
Debi Ulmer		Alarm Syst. & Elect. Access Rep.
C.D. Siems		Locksmith Representative
Wade Hayden		Public Representative
Stephen Willeford		Public Representative
Jason Hester	Assistant Chief	Texas Department of Public Safety
JoJo Heselmeyer	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Chris Sims	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sherrie Zgabay	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ryan Garcia	Program Asst. Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Huel Haynes	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Sarah Gaytan	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Pablo Luna	Program Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Molly Sanchez	Program Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Steve Moninger	Sr. Policy Analyst	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Executive Assistant	Texas Department of Public Safety

3. Minutes from January 15, 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

4. Quarterly Reports from Regulatory Services Division

a. Licensing Statistics

Ryan Garcia presented this information to the committee members. He also stated that these numbers were consistent with last year.

b. Compliance Statistics

Sarah Gaytan presented this information to the committee members. She also stated that before the COVID-19 shut down there were no discrepancies from what the numbers should be based on prior years.

c. Executive Office Report

Jason Hester informed the committee that despite the COVID-19 stay at home orders, the Division was still functioning at full capacity. A few modifications were made including moving most employees from the office to work from home. He also stated that there should not be any delays in application processing, calls or emails.

Jason further informed the committee that due to a declaration from the Governor all PPO and Commissioned Guard license expirations would be extended. He explained that the reason why is because part of their renewal process is to do firearm qualification which would go against the Governor's order for social distancing. He went on to say that those with PPO or Commissioned Guard licenses expiring will have an extension of 60 days after everything opens up again and social distancing is no longer needed.

The next topic Jason addressed was the concern raised by the committee members regarding training schools not providing sufficient experience for licensure in the cases of Private Investigation and Locksmiths. He stated that the Department ran a report and only 176 private investigators and 2 locksmiths have obtained their licenses by showing completion of education. This includes those who graduated with a 4 year criminal justice degree as well, as there is no way to separate that information in the report. He went on to say that the executive staff did not feel there is any need to amend the rule on this type of licensure at this time.

During the January meeting of the committee, the topic was raised regarding consultant licenses and being armed on school campuses. Jason Hester informed the committee that based on the Department's review of this issue it was concluded that this is a statutory issue that should be raised by the industry. Vice-chairman Trevino stated that this issue died during the last Legislative session, but that the security guard association (ASSIST) would raise this issue again at the next session.

Jason informed the committee that with the COVID-19 outbreak and the Governor's order for social distancing, Regulatory Services field staff would not be making contact for audits, but rather performing them via online or telephone options. Secretary Ulmer stated she had heard from someone who received an email audit and was questioning its legitimacy. She asked if the Department could send out something alerting the industry that these would be the normal practice during this time. JoJo Heselmeyer offered clarification stating that if requested documents are not readily available the auditors would not be requesting anyone to drive to go get them during this time, but would circle back to complete the audit at a later date.

Finally, Jason informed the committee regarding the completion of the functional review that the Division underwent. He stated that the division would not be filling Major Alexander's vacated position, but would rather be dividing that service into the other 3 existing services. JoJo Heselmeyer would remain over the Compliance and Enforcement Service which will include the investigators, auditors, and inspectors. Sherrie Zgabay will oversee the Licensing and Review Service which includes not only all licensing sections but eligibility as well. Chris Sims will move to the Integrated Client Services which will include the contact center and document processing.

5. Industry Reports

a. Security Officers

There were no updates or reports at this time.

b. Investigators

There were no updates or reports at this time.

c. Alarm systems and Electronic Access Control

Secretary Ulmer stated that members of her association have asked questions regarding their renewals. Specifically if they are due for renewal during COVID and do not have the CEUs required, would they be granted a grace period to get them completed. Jason Hester responded saying that although the Department would not be moving forward with waivers at this time they would reevaluate this as needed, should people be unable to obtain their CEUs through online training courses.

d. Locksmiths

There were no updates or reports at this time.

6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items

a. Private Investigator & Locksmith Schools

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

b. Staying ahead of future technology concerns within the various Private Security Industries

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. Future agenda items

There were no future agenda items discussed at this time.

8. Date of next meeting- July 8, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

Date of the next meeting was confirmed to be July 8, 2020.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.