

Public Safety Programs



Regional Emergency Communications

- TARC continues to coordinate a workgroup of Executive Directors, finance officers and 9-1-1 planners to review and provide input on Program Policy Statements to assist the Commission on State Emergency Communications with efforts to modernize operations.
- TARC staff have participated every Monday in CSEC's Legislative Working Group to help the Commission craft its strategic plan and legislative priorities.
- TARC staff participate on the CSEC state-level Strategic Operations Committee helping guide the state's transition to Next Generation and digital 9-1-1.

Emergency Preparedness

- Chaired Texas Preparedness Coordinating Council interacting with DSHS.
- TARC staff served on the statewide scoring team to assist the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division with review and scoring of applications submitted by non-profit organizations seeking funding to implement increased security measures against terror attacks.
- Assisted Texas Office of Homeland Security with reviewing and updating statewide preparedness and response plans.
- TARC was able to equip Citizen Corps Programs with emergency Preparedness backpacks stocked with essential tools for preparing communities for potential disasters and emergencies along with reporting to FEMA.

Member Services



Legislative

- TARC worked with several state agencies on their Legislative Appropriations Requests by providing input. Agencies include:
 - HHSC - State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
 - Commission on State Emergency Communications
 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- TARC staff coordinated public comment during TCEQ's commission meeting about Fund 5000.

TARC e-Learning

- TARC staff hosted 20 e-Learning webinars throughout the year covering topics like reducing opioid dependency in older Texans, grants management skills development, increasing virtual public engagement and communications strategies.

Regional Services



State Agency Relationships

- TARC has worked closely with the Office of the Governor, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Commission on State Emergency Communications, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission forming workgroups and convening members to provide solutions to challenges and discuss new initiatives. While this is by no means an exhaustive list of the agencies we've worked with, it illustrates the relationships your TARC team has developed with staff and leadership at agencies throughout the state so your voice can be heard and regionalism can have a seat at the table.

Health & Human Services



Positive Working Relationships

- Successful communication with COG and HHSC leadership to discuss concerns regarding recent monitoring findings. Resulted in HHSC rescinding the troublesome reports and plan to continue dialogue with the state agency.
- Stood up more than 7 workgroups to assist the agency with updates to policies, procedures, appropriations requests and provide network feedback in a positive and constructive manner.

Webinars

- Virtual learning replaced in-person training and to assist AAAs with navigating the new delivery method, 6 aging-related webinars were coordinated.

Aging in Texas Conference

- Planned and subsequently postponed the AiTC in El Paso. Will host conference in same location next year. El Paso strong in 2021!

T4A

- Hosted 13 Network Roundtable Discussions to allow for peer-to-peer conversation, troubleshooting, and idea-sharing.
- Organized and shared over 35 COVID-19 network updates to provide the most current and updated resources and information to AAA Directors.
- Partnering with the Texas A&M University Center for Population Health and Aging and Texas Healthy at Home to host daily virtual events for falls prevention awareness during Falls Prevention Awareness Week.



(Re)gional (Re)siliency

TARC Responds to COVID-19

Seamless Staff Transition

- Team TARC quickly and efficiently adapted to remote working without a lapse in service during COVID-19. Efforts focused on maintaining communication and serving as a resource to assist regions dealing with these unprecedented times.

Regular Resource Sharing

- Beginning March 17th, TARC shared important COVID-19 information with the Board and Executive Directors. The notices were sent daily during the peak of COVID-19 and included countless resources and updates.
- Creation of searchable webpage on the TARC website to house all COVID-19 information shared with TARC Board & Executive Directors' Council.
- Targeted information shared with T4A network and TARC staff associations to assist with services provided to COG member governments.
- Setup a weekly T4A Network Roundtable Discussion call for AAA Directors to focus on requested topics. The calls are designed to allow T4A to discuss best practices, share challenges, and identify solutions within the network.

Member Services

- Helped members quickly move to online meeting platforms by using existing resources to host – on behalf of regions – Board, advisory council, and census complete count committee meetings, to name a few.
- Served as a research resource to allow members to focus energy on serving their communities on the frontlines.

State Coordination Calls

- Team TARC stayed in regular contact with agencies responding to the pandemic, including participating on calls held by:
 - Department of State Health Services
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - Texas Department of Emergency Management
 - Health and Human Services Commission
 - Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

Agency Partnerships

Relationships with agency partners strengthened the desire to use COGs to assist with COVID-related funds distribution. (Thank you to all for your quick response to many of these requests!)

- EDA: Multiple updates from the director of the agency's Austin regional office and request for COG input on how to effectively spend CARES Act funding.
- OOG: Gathering and distributing information and resources between OOG and COGs
- HHSC: Able to quickly gather examples of how AAAs were serving seniors affected by COVID-19 to share with HHSC Executive Commissioner to prepare for meeting with federal agency leadership.
- TDHCA: Provided regional input on most beneficial use of CARES Act funding.

Webinars

Information sharing to assist COGs with quickly responding to the sudden change in work environment.

- Responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster: Price Gouging and Consumer Scams
- T4A Best Practices: Purchasing Medication for Clients
- You've Enacted Your COG Continuity Plan, Now What?
- Communicating Amidst a Crisis