

Illinois Forensic Science Commission
Technology Subcommittee
Open Meeting-Via Web Ex
Tuesday, December 11, 2024, 11:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 11:00 a.m. by Subcommittee Chairperson Jeffrey Buford

- II. Roll-call
 - a. Jeffrey Buford, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chairperson
 - b. Jillian Baker, Commission Member
 - c. Caryn Tucker, Commission Member
 - d. Jeanne Richeal, Commission Member
 - e. Amy Watroba, Executive Director Illinois Forensic Science Commission
 - f. Jamie Edwards, ISP, Latent Prints Section (Springfield)
 - g. Jason George, ISP, Drug Chemistry Chief (Chicago)
 - h. Kevin Gillespie, ISP, Micro-Trace Section (Chicago)
 - i. Gina Havlick, NIRCL
 - j. Cassandra Richards, ISP, Section Chief-Criminalistics (Chicago)
 - k. Larry Shelton, ISP, Toxicology Training Coordinator
 - l. Bryan Tomac, ISP, Firearms Section (Metro East)

- III. Review of Minutes/Adoption
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2024 subcommittee meeting was unanimously approved.
 - b. A motion to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2024 subcommittee meeting, with one noted typographical correction, was unanimously approved.

- IV. Chairperson Report
 - a. Chairperson Buford reported that the Forensic Science Commission held a quarterly meeting in September. At that meeting, Mr. Buford provided an update of the Summary Report regarding Phase 2 accomplishments and progress. Mr. Buford is in the process of finalizing the written report. The report will provide status and updates for the disciplines that are actively progressing with implementation of new technologies or are reviewing new technologies for possible implementation (Firearms, Trace, and Toxicology). The Phase 2 Summary Report will be shared at the next Forensic Science Commission Meeting on December 16th.

- V. Discussion
 - a. Phase 2 Summary Report- In addition to the information about the Phase 2 Summary Report provided during the Chairperson Report, Mr. Buford noted that if other disciplines have

updates on the issue of emerging technologies in their disciplines since the Phase 2 presentations, they can reach out to him with that information.

b. Next Subcommittee Projects-

- i. LIMS- The subcommittee discussed how the topic of LIMS was identified as a possible subject to address when the subcommittee first formed. The Current/Emerging Technologies project was prioritized by the subcommittee at that time, but now that Phase 2 of that project is complete, the subcommittee discussed whether it would be appropriate and/or worthwhile for the subcommittee to assess the LIMS systems used by the three laboratory systems (ISP, DuPage, NIRCL), what the scope of an assessment would be, and how an assessment could benefit all three lab systems.

All three lab systems use different versions of “BEAST” from a common vendor, but each lab system’s BEAST is tailored to their unique needs and the needs of their user agencies. As such, the subcommittee decided by consensus to recommend that the three lab systems (ISP, DuPage, NIRCL) form a collaborative working group of subject matter experts from each lab system on the topic of LIMS. Because all three lab systems have LIMS systems from the same vendor, the working group may be able to identify common issues with the software/vendor or shared complaints from user agencies and then work collaboratively to identify solutions. If any major issues or deficiencies are identified by the working group, the three lab systems could collectively leverage the need for solutions with the vendor. The working group also will share information with the Technology Subcommittee via a liaison as needed to keep the subcommittee up-to-date and to identify any LIMS-related issues that the subcommittee may want to address.

Ms. Watroba and Mr. Buford will help put the subject matter experts from each lab system in contact with each other to assist with the creation of the collaborative working group.

- ii. AI Applications- Mr. Buford explained that Forensic Science Commission Chairperson Kelly suggested that the Technology Subcommittee begin discussions related to AI and how AI actually applies to forensic science disciplines. Because “AI” is a broad topic, the subcommittee began discussing foundational concepts related to AI, including the fact that AI applications in forensic science laboratories cannot replace human decision-making tasks. The importance of first defining what “AI” means in the forensic science context also was discussed. Ms. Watroba provided a brief summary and some key takeaways from the AI panel discussion held at the NAFSB Annual Conference.

Ms. Watroba will create an AI Resource Library Folder on the subcommittee’s TEAMS page to facilitate the sharing of information related to AI applications in forensic science. She will populate the folder with materials she receives related the NAFSB conference presentation and subcommittee members can also add additional

resources they have or receive at conferences or from their research. The shared resources can then assist with identifying discussion points and narrowing the focus of the subcommittee on the topic of AI.

VI. Public Comments

- a. No comments.

VII. Next Meeting/ Adjournment

- a. The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Ms. Watroba will create a Doodle Poll for possible meeting times on that date.
- b. Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.