

**Illinois Forensic Science Commission
Technology Subcommittee
Open Meeting-Via Web Ex
Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 11:00 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order
 - 1. 11:00 a.m. by Subcommittee Chairperson Mr. Buford.
- II. Roll-call
 - 1. Jeffrey Buford, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chairperson
 - 2. Jillian Baker, Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
 - 3. Jeanne Richeal, Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
 - 4. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Illinois Forensic Science Commission
 - 5. Adrienne Bickel, ISP
 - 6. Casey Craven, ISP
 - 7. Jamie Edwards, ISP
 - 8. Jason George, ISP*
 - 9. Kevin Gillespie, ISP
 - 10. Megan Neff Salasek, ISP
 - 11. Daniel Pruitt, ISP
 - 12. Cassandra Richards, ISP
 - 13. Bryan Tomac, ISP

(*denotes individual who joined meeting after roll-call)
- III. Review of Minutes/Adoption
 - 1. The minutes from the August 20, 2025 subcommittee meeting were approved.
- IV. Chairperson Report
 - 1. Mr. Buford provided a brief summary of the information he provided about the subcommittee's work to the Commission at the Commission's September meeting.
- V. Discussion- AI Applications in Forensic Science
 - 1. Summary of technology-related presentations from NAFSB Annual Conference
 - a. Ms. Watroba attended the two-day annual conference of the National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB) in October at the University of New Haven. ISP DD Woolery also attended. Most presentations at the conference were not tech heavy, but Ms. Watroba provided a brief outline of presentations that relate to the work of the Technology Subcommittee. First, there was a presentation/panel discussion about AI lessons learned. Ms. Watroba was part of that panel along with Dan Katz, a lab director from Maryland. They mostly summarized the NIST AI Symposium and use case cards and also discussed ASCLD's recent position statement on AI. Ms. Watroba shared the work of the subcommittee related

to AI as an example of how state-level boards and commissions can begin discussions and work related to AI. Ms. Watroba noted that ASCLD's statement on AI is consistent with the key takeaways reached by the subcommittee related to the use of AI in forensic science. Next, Dr. Claire Glynn of UNH presented on FIGG. Another presentation addressed launching Rapid DNA, which is timely given the recent changes to QAS related to the use of Rapid DNA for crime scene samples. Several of the presenters discussed how they have used Rapid DNA for crime scene samples outside of accreditation (but under an accreditation model). There was an interesting presentation on aiding smaller forensic service providers, during which lab directors from smaller labs discussed their lab operations, strengths, challenges, etc. that differ from large lab systems. For example, smaller labs are often able to implement new technology quicker but are more impacted when issues arise with technology because lab staff wear multiple hats. Finally, there was a valuable presentation on the decision on *Smith v. Arizona*. LIMS systems were discussed during this presentation and how they have impacted lab reports and case files in ways that may impact how those materials are reviewed under *Smith v. Arizona*. Ensuring that LIMS systems clearly identify who did what during case analysis may be especially important. The conference also involved a tour of the facility at UNH, which is designed to model a real-world lab.

2. Discussion of next steps/possible topics for subcommittee to address

- a. The subcommittee identified technology related to quality systems as a topic for future discussion. The subcommittee noted the possible impact that cuts to the Coverdell grant funding program could have on acquisition of new technologies. Ms. Watroba shared information from a presenter at NAFSB who discussed the federal budget process and the work done by CFSO related to federal grant funds for forensic science labs. Labs who have data demonstrating the impact of federal grant funding on operations, backlogs, etc. are encouraged to reach out to CFSO to share their data in support of grant funding efforts.
- b. Mr. Buford shared that there are online courses offered by the University of North Florida on the topic of AI. Currently many of the courses are free.
- c. Mr. Buford suggested that the subcommittee hear an update related to the implementation of new technology in ISP's toxicology section that was discussed during Phase 2 (Emerging Technologies).

VI. Public Comment

1. No public comment offered.

VII. Next Meeting/ Adjournment

1. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 11 a.m.
2. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.