

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Drugs Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026, 12:00 p.m. meeting

I. Call to order

Executive Director Amy Watroba called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m. The meeting was held via Web Ex.

II. Roll-call

The following people were present:

1. Jillian Baker, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Chairperson
2. Jason George, Subcommittee Member
3. Gail Gutierrez, Subcommittee Member
4. Gina Havlik, Subcommittee Member
5. Amanda Shanbaum, Subcommittee Member
6. Lindsay Simpson, Subcommittee Member
7. Peter St. Andre, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
8. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Forensic Science Commission
9. Jennifer Berg
10. Eryn Maltese

III. Discussion:

1. Membership and selection of Chairperson.

This was the first meeting of the Drugs Subcommittee. Ms. Watroba provided general background information about procedures for Forensic Science Commission subcommittees and subcommittee membership. Meeting participants discussed the general topic of membership and individuals volunteered to serve as members of the subcommittee. Individuals and subject matter experts who do not wish to be members of the subcommittee can still attend meetings and engage with the subcommittee.

Jillian Baker was selected to serve as Chairperson of the subcommittee.

2. Subcommittee short- and long-term goals and strategic planning.

Ms. Baker provided background information about discussions in the Public Policy Subcommittee and Forensic Science Commission that resulted in the creation of the Drugs Subcommittee. In response to discussions about report consistency for new and emerging drugs, the Commission recommended that the accredited lab systems performing seized drug analysis create an

Emerging Drugs Working Group outside the Commission and that the working group share information and data with the Drugs Subcommittee. The working group is in the process of establishing a mechanism for lab system communication and discussion related to new and emerging drugs and drug trends. The Drugs Subcommittee can then serve as a forum to share information from the working group with other stakeholders such as coroners/medical examiners, public health professionals, and law enforcement agencies. The Drugs Subcommittee also can serve as a hub for discussing potential changes to Illinois's Controlled Substances Act. Ms. Watroba described the structure of the working group and Drug Subcommittee from a process standpoint and how the working group possibly could be moved under the umbrella of the Commission in the long term. Meeting participants discussed ideas for how the subcommittee could engage with the legislature on issues related to the Illinois Controlled Substances Act.

Meeting participants discussed other ideas for topics the Drugs Subcommittee could address, including being a repository for data to start building out trends related to seized drugs. Discussion ensued about collecting data from different lab systems and other stakeholder groups, including outreach and data uniformity. The topic of concordance between the controlling of substances at the federal and state levels also was discussed. Meeting participants discussed different ways the subcommittee could serve as a resource for notifying the Illinois legislature about the addition of controlled substances at the federal level via the Federal Register and the idea of conducting a retrospective review to identify substances that are controlled at the federal level that have not been added to the Illinois Controlled Substances Act.

Members of the Emerging Drugs Work Group provided an overview of the work conducted by the group thus far and plans for future work.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

VII. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:55 p.m. The next subcommittee meeting will be held via Web Ex at 12 p.m. on February 17, 2026.