

# Illinois Forensic Science Commission

## Quality Systems Subcommittee

### Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2026, 1:00 p.m. meeting

I. Call to order

Subcommittee Chairperson Claire Dragovich called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Web Ex.

II. Roll-call

The following people were present:

1. Jillian Baker, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
2. Jeffrey Buford, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
3. Claire Dragovich, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Chairperson
4. Judge Art Hill (ret.), FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
5. Frances Kammueler, Subcommittee Member
6. Peter St. Andre, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
7. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Forensic Science Commission
8. Kevin McMahon
9. Lindsay Simpson\*

(\*denotes individuals who joined meeting after roll-call)

III. Review of Minutes:

1. The minutes from the October 9, 2025 subcommittee meeting were approved with noted typographical error corrections.
2. The minutes from the November 13, 2025 subcommittee meeting were approved with noted typographical error corrections. One member abstained from vote.

IV. Discussion:

1. Compiling information for and drafting of 2025 Non-Conformity Report for publicly funded ISO 17025 forensic laboratory systems in Illinois.

Ms. Dragovich and Ms. Watroba provided an update. Letters requesting annual reports as outlined in the Commission's statute were sent in December to the publicly funded ISO 17025 accredited laboratories identified by a search of accrediting bodies' websites: Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command, DuPage County Forensic Science Center, Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory (NIRCL), and the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.

Responses were requested by February 3, 2026. Once those responses are received, the subcommittee can begin its work on reviewing responses and compiling the 2025 Annual Report.

2. Continued Discussion on Investigative Report Regarding the University of Illinois Chicago Analytical Forensic Testing Laboratory issued May 28, 2025.

The subcommittee completed its page-by-page review of the Investigative Report issued by UIC related to AFTL at its last meeting and discussed drafting a document in response to the UIC Report. The subcommittee discussed possible key points, observations, and recommendations to include in the responsive statement. The document will address the four-corners of the UIC Report and then the subcommittee will move on to other work product related to the issues at AFTL. The subcommittee noted the importance of first completing the document that is responsive to the UIC Report because the UIC Report is publicly available and could be viewed as authoritative by criminal justice stakeholders or the public. The subcommittee discussed possible next steps from a process standpoint once the responsive document is completed. The subcommittee aims to have the responsive document completed for discussion and possible approval at the March Commission meeting.

V. Old Business

The subcommittee will begin its work on the 2025 report of significant non-conformities after it completes the document in response to the UIC Report. In past years, the annual significant non-conformity report has been submitted to the Commission for discussion and approval at the Commission's June meeting.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Public Comment

Kevin McMahan offered public comment related to the subcommittee's discussion of possible key points to include in the responsive document. Mr. McMahan stated that he largely agreed with the subcommittee's discussion of possible content for the document. Mr. McMahan indicated that he feels the topic of how urine testing is characterized in the UIC Report should be included in the responsive document. Mr. McMahan stated that he thinks the Commission should also address how urine testing at AFTL was characterized in general. In his opinion, urine testing at AFTL was described in a misleading manner since 2016. Mr. McMahan stated that AFTL continued to use hydrolysis after the law changed in 2016 and that AFTL was alerted to problems with urine testing and possible nonconformance with the law in 2016. Mr. McMahan also commented on the portion of the UIC Report suggesting that AFTL's testimony methodologies were at all times appropriate.

Mr. McMahon noted that the only issue addressed in the UIC Report is the issue of Delta-8 interference and stated that there were other issues with the raw data in AFTL's case files that the UIC Report does not address. Mr. McMahon stated that the Commission should investigate and address how rigorously the lab checked for dirty blanks to see if machines were contaminated and how rigorously they checked machine calibration.

VIII. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:58 p.m.