

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Meeting Minutes

26 September 2022

I. **Call to order**

Chairperson, Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly, called to order the meeting of the Illinois Forensic Science Commission at 10:04 a.m., on September 26, 2022, at the Decatur Forensic Science Laboratory, located at 1053 W. Rotary Way, Decatur, IL

II. **Roll-call**

The following people were present:

1. Brendan Kelly, chair/member
2. Jeanne Richeal, member
3. Caryn Tucker, member
4. Jillian Baker, member
5. Dr. Cris Hughes-Crookshanks, member
6. Carrie Ward, member
7. John Hanlon, member
8. Jeff Buford, member
9. Philip Kinsey, member
10. Claire Dragovich, member
11. Art Hill, member
12. Robin Woolery, Illinois State Police Director Designee, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services
13. Samuel Del Rio, liaison, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services

III. **Review/Adoption of the Minutes of March 27, 2022**

Section VI (2) to include Jeanne Richeal to the Training/Career Development subcommittee.

The vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of 06/27/2022 was unanimously approved.

IV. **Housekeeping Items**

1. There were no questions relating to FY23 Travel vouchers.
2. Newly appointed Commissioner, Art Hill, was introduced and discussed his professional background.

3. Commissioner Jillian Baker suggested meeting at various public funded crime labs to increase Commissioners' understanding of the various facilities.
4. Illinois State Police Deputy Director Robin Woolery suggested holding the final 2022 meeting via WebEx. All agreed.

V. Subcommittee Reports

1. Quality Systems provided a handout which provided the current state of non-conformity reporting requirements and established a uniform reporting mechanism for the Commission.
2. Training and Career Development highlighted the need for funding and additional resources. Subcommittee members advised that they are planning to meet with universities with the aim to develop a program structure. They also intend to address sharing training and resources between labs and outside agencies.
3. The Procurement subcommittee has not yet met due to external bureaucratic operations.
4. The Public Policy subcommittee met in August and has a scheduled meeting in October. It was noted that a letter on behalf of the Commission was drafted and sent, denouncing the practice of using victim DNA for implications in other crimes.
5. The Technology subcommittee reported meeting three (3) times. Their meetings have focused on identifying core disciplines to review technology in those areas. The members of this subcommittee foresee reviewing futuristic technologies that would enhance work-product for the identified core disciplines. Subcommittee members reviewed the status of each discipline's paperless environment.

VI. Issues for Discussion

1. Use of Victim's DNA Standards Letter of Recommendation Update – see V (4) above.
2. Post Graduate Certification Update – Commission members are to meet with staff of the University of Illinois College of Law to further develop the curriculum outline. It was reported that there has been a request to the Commission from Southern Illinois University Carbondale to develop curriculum.

3. Legislative Proposals/Recommendations

- A. Toxicology Location - Current legislation requires this lab section to be physically located in specific geographic locations. The members of the Commission agree that this lab section could provide timely services to user agencies in both northern and southern Illinois without the geographic limitation resulting in improved cost efficiency. The Commission will draft a recommendation letter to legislative leaders for final approval at the December meeting.
- B. Indexing Searches – The Commission agrees that the practice of searching the convicted offender database against itself is not probative in a criminal case and creates an undue burden on DNA indexing resources. It was recommended that the Training subcommittee provide training on this and similar topics to attorneys and judges. The Commission agreed an opinion letter to public defenders, prosecutors, criminal defense bars/associations, and the judiciary is an appropriate measure.
- C. Permission to Consume – This item was not discussed.

VII. **Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

VIII. **Meeting Schedule**

Members agreed to schedule the next meeting on December 19, 2022 via WebEx.

IX. **Adjournment**

Chairperson Kelly adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m. on September 26, 2022; members were then provided a tour of the Decatur Forensic Science Laboratory.