

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Drugs Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2026, 1:00 p.m. meeting

I. Call to order

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

*denotes individual who joined after roll call

III. Discussion/Approval of minutes from April 30, 2026 meeting

1. The minutes from the April 30, 2026, meeting were approved with noted non-substantive typographical corrections.

IV. Chairperson Report

1. Ms. Baker reported that the Forensic Science Commission will hold its next meeting on June 10th.

V. Emerging Drug Working Group Report

1. Ms. Shanbaum reported that the group met and discussed widening participation in the group. Ms. Baker wrote a letter to ISP Bureau Chief Timothy Tripp requesting broader involvement from ISP labs.

VI. Legislative Update

1. Ms. Watroba indicated that the session ends on May 31st and provided an update on the bills discussed at the last subcommittee meeting. There have been no significant developments with respect to any of those bills since the

last meeting. Ms. Shanbaum discussed an additional bill, SB 3322, which began as a mental health bill but was amended to propose changes to Illinois statutes related to reconciling the Illinois Controlled Substances Act with the Federal Register. The bill adds a process within the Department of Human Services to provide concordance in Illinois when a substance is controlled at the federal level. The subcommittee discussed trying to contact someone at DHS if the bill passes and is signed into law.

VII. Old Business

1. Reconciling the Illinois Controlled Substances Act with the Federal Register.

Ms. Baker summarized information she obtained from Mr. George. There is a new folder in the subcommittee's shared space. The subcommittee discussed next steps to narrow the list created by Mr. George. The goal of completing this project is to identify compounds that are not controlled in Illinois to use for legislative recommendations.

2. Sharing information related to emerging drugs.

Ms. Havlik and Mr. St. Andre provided an update on the public-facing quarterly report. The subcommittee discussed what the end product might look like. Ms. Havlik and Mr. St. Andre will work on compiling the data for 2026 Q1.

The Emerging Drugs Working Group will continue its work on the emerging drugs list.

3. Discussion regarding analysis of Kratom and related natural and synthetic compounds.

Ms. Baker and Ms. Watroba summarized a discussion they had after the last subcommittee meeting. Ms. Watroba proposed considering two threshold questions when thinking about generating work product: (1) why is this important to the Commission; and (2) what does the subcommittee want to convey to the legislature? If the goal is to ensure statutory language aligns with the analytical capabilities of the labs, she suggested drafting language to propose to the next General Assembly, which convenes in January. Background information and/or a fact sheet could be provided in addition to proposed language. Ms. Havlik suggested that the Working Group have conversations about this topic. The subcommittee discussed whether Kratom could be addressed via class, like other substances, and whether it wants to rethink what information to compile for the legislature. The subcommittee

discussed looking at how Kratom is defined and controlled in other states as sources for preferred language.

VIII. New Business

Ms. Cervantes provided an update on her new employment and how she can continue to participate in the subcommittee in her new role.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

X. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be held via Web Ex on July 8, 2026, at 1 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.