

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Public Policy Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2026, 12 p.m. meeting

I. Call to order

Ms. Drummond called the meeting to order at approximately 12 p.m. The meeting was held via Web Ex.

II. Roll call

The following individuals were present:

1. Dr. Ponni Arunkumar, FS Commission Member, subcommittee member*
2. Claire Dragovich, FS Commission Member, subcommittee member
3. Katherine Drummond, FS Commission Member, subcommittee chairperson
4. Jeanne Richeal, FS Commission Member, subcommittee member*
5. Peter St. Andre, FS Commission Member, subcommittee member
6. Carrie Ward, FS Commission Member, subcommittee member
7. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Forensic Science Commission

III. Review/Approval of Minutes

1. The meeting minutes from 5/26/26 meeting were approved following the discussion portion of the meeting.

IV. Discussion:

1. Legislative Update- CODIS Access Modernization Act, Carla Walker Act, Illinois legislation

Ms. Watroba provided an update on federal and state legislation.

2. Chicago Police Department Forensic Services Division Update

Ms. Watroba provided an update. CPD-FSD is now accredited by ANAB to ISO 17025 for latent prints and limited firearms examinations. This will trigger the membership and SNC reporting provisions of the Commission's statute.

3. Kane County Forensic Lab Update

Ms. Dragovich shared information obtained from a conference she attended and a recent Kane County public meeting. Kane County is seeking to use grant

money to purchase equipment and there was mention of needing to hire a second person for the DNA section. Ms. Dragovich summarized the information shared at the Kane County meeting about chemistry disciplines. Ms. Watroba also watched the Kane County meeting and shared observations related to the information provided about the development of Rapid and conventional DNA programs. Subcommittee members discussed issues related to DNA testing with accreditation and QAS versus DNA testing without accreditation and a local database. Subcommittee members also discussed best practices and possible legal implications of a local non-CODIS DNA database.

Ms. Watroba suggested that the subcommittee discuss a possible path forward for working with Kane County and/or addressing the topic of the types of DNA analysis that Kane County has mentioned. The subcommittee discussed inviting Kane County back to provide an update on their Rapid DNA program plans. One specific topic that the subcommittee is interested in discussing is the Illinois statute addressing the use of victim DNA. Ms. Watroba will reach out to Mr. Ruppel and Dr. Ware about providing an update to the subcommittee.

- V. Old Business
None.
- VI. New Business
None.
- VII. Public Comment
No public comment offered.
- VIII. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:58 p.m.