

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Meeting Minutes

20 June 2023

I. **Call to order**

Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery, called to order the meeting of the Illinois Forensic Science Commission at 10:00 a.m., on June 20, 2023, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, located at 1206 W. Gregory, Room 1619, Urbana, Illinois.

II. **Roll-call**

The following people were present:

1. Caryn Tucker, member
2. Jillian Baker, member
3. Dr. Cris Hughes-Crookshanks, member
4. Carrie Ward, member
5. John Hanlon, member
6. Jeff Buford, member
7. Philip Kinsey, member
8. Claire Dragovich, member
9. Art Hill, member
10. Dan Wright, member
11. Robin Woolery, Illinois State Police Director Designee, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services
12. Samuel Del Rio, liaison, Illinois State Police Legal Office
13. Calvin Brown, Lieutenant Colonel, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services
14. Jan Johnson, Commander, Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command
15. Joanne Liu, Interim Bureau Chief, Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command
16. Brittany Alston, Illinois State Police Governmental Affairs
17. Amy Watroba, DuPage County Assistant State's Attorney

III. **Review/Adoption of the Minutes of March 20, 2023.**

The vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of 03/20/2023 was unanimously approved.

- IV. **Housekeeping Items** – Instruction was provided to commission members regarding annual ethics training and tracking via state email addresses.

Members agreed that commissioning a graphic designer was needed to acquire official letterhead.

V. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. Quality Systems reported providing commission members the annual non-conformities report. There were no questions or comments.
2. Training and Career Development reported meeting monthly for the prior two months. The committee has reviewed and collected feedback for curriculum at the University of Illinois at Chicago. This committee proposed to participate at the 2024 judicial conference and provide ad hoc judicial training in Cook County. Proposed curriculum must be drafted. They intend to provide educational opportunities in various areas to include general forensics, criminal law and testimony, and ethics.
3. The Public Policy committee reported being busy over winter and spring during the legislative season. Their focus was on victim DNA legislation; however, the bill did not get through the legislative session. Hope remains that the bill will pass in the upcoming session. Committee members identified the issue of timeliness as it relates to blood draws for THC DUI. The concern is that blood THC levels will increase during the 2-4 hour interval. The committee members need to continue work on the issue of the .10 THC standard for DUI. The concern was that the standard was not arrived at in a scientific manner. The committee requires more expert input.
4. The Technology subcommittee reported meeting in April. Their meetings have transitioned from phase 1, reviewing technology of the core disciplines (drug chemistry, firearms, forensic biology/DNA, latent prints, microscopy & trace, and toxicology) to phase 2, looking at emerging technologies to enhance the core disciplines. They have covered firearms and will cover toxicology tomorrow. The remaining core disciplines will be presented in the near future.

VI. **Issues for Discussion**

1. Legislative Proposals
 - a. Control Substance Act Update – The bill passed; the labs were sent updated language.
 - b. Use of Victim's DNA – The bill did not get picked up this legislative cycle.

- c. Added Wording for Commission Bill
 - i. Coroner/Medical Examiner – A 14th commissioner will be added. A defense attorney and coroner/medical examiner will be added to the commission.
 - ii. Accredited – The ISP proposed to add the word “accredited”; all labs are accredited.
- 2. State’s Attorney Conference Training – The commission did not present at this year’s conference. ISP sent 3 lab representatives and a LIMS expert gave an overview to the states’ attorneys.
- 3. Executive Director Position – Approval is being sought to hire an executive director, which will be an ISP employee under the Office of the Director.
- 4. ISP-UIUC Partnership-IPE Program – The university and the ISP are to enter into an intergovernmental agreement to create a research partnership. ISP can propose research projects. UIUC can provide graduate level interns who can work at the labs, focusing mainly on DNA. This is anticipated to be a 5-year agreement.

VII. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

VIII. Meeting Schedule

Members agreed to schedule the next meeting for 10:00 a.m., on September 18, 2023, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Carl R. Woese IGB, located at 1206 W. Gregory, Room 1619, in Urbana, IL. The December meeting will be held via WebEx.

IX. Adjournment

Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m. on June 20, 2023.