

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Meeting Minutes

18 September 2023

I. **Call to order**

Chairperson, Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly, called to order the meeting of the Illinois Forensic Science Commission at 10:00 a.m., on September 18, 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. Brendan Kelly, chair/member
2. Caryn Tucker, member
3. Jillian Baker, 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. Christina Beatty, Associate Professor, Parkland College
16. Timothy Ruppel, Chemist, Kane County Forensic Laboratory
17. Dr. Sarah Ware, Laboratory Director, Kane County Forensic Laboratory
18. Brittany Alston, Illinois State Police Governmental Affairs
19. Amy Watroba, DuPage County Assistant State's Attorney

III. **Review/Adoption of the Minutes of June 27, 2023.**

Commission Member Art Hill requested the minutes be amended to reflect the ad hoc status of the Cook County presentations in lieu of annual status. The vote

to approve the Meeting Minutes of 06/27/2023 was then unanimously approved.

- IV. **Housekeeping Items** – Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery reminded members to submit travel reimbursements.

V. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. Quality Systems reported providing commission members the annual non-conformities report. The QA annual non-Conformity report was unanimously approved and will be released on the Commission's webpage.

The Committee reported meeting once since the last meeting, reviewing preparations for annual non-conformity Report. The Committee plans on meeting prior to the next Commission meeting.

2. Training and Career Development reported meeting monthly since the prior Commission meeting, discussing disciplines to present at the judicial conference. It was reported that, after survey, judges requested presentations on firearms, toolmarks, and DNA (emerging technology and recent judicial decisions). Presentations will be held on October 12th and October 26th.

The committee is focusing on standardizing training in areas of general forensics, criminal law & testimony, civil law & testimony, and ethics. Documents on general forensics, criminal law & testimony, and civil law & testimony have been drafted.

Various methods for transcript acquisition were discussed, including ordering directly from the court reporters' offices and contacting the state's attorneys' offices for copies.

3. The Public Policy committee reported covering four major issues in the past year. Victim DNA language is now in the legislature and is pending a vote.

The Committee suggests providing labs newly passed legislation concerning forensics institutions. This responsibility will be decided when an executive director is onboarded.

Committee members identified the issue of timeliness as it relates to blood draws for drug and THC DUI. The concern is that blood concentration levels will increase during the two-to-four-hour interval and suggests to extend the two-hour time limit. Additional subject matter expertise is required to make an informed recommendation.

The committee members identified the limitation on five nanograms or more per milliliter of whole blood or ten nanograms or more per milliliter of other bodily substance regarding DUI testing standards. This issue requires input from subject matter experts and a review of trends in other states. The committee also suggested that free delta-9 be the standard for testing, which is associated with current impairment.

4. The Technology subcommittee reported meeting twice since the last Commission meeting. 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. Phase 1 was a recap of current technologies and an evaluation of what improvements can be made. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by next December or January.

VI. Issue for Discussion

National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB) – Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery received an invite to attend the meeting in Austin, November 16th-18th. The board aims to assist states in formulating their forensic science boards and commissions. Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery was asked to speak about Illinois' Commission.

VII. Public Comment

Timothy Ruppel and Dr. Sarah Ware advised that they are in the process of building the new Kane County Forensic Science Laboratory and were present to observe and get advice. They reported that the first six rooms should be operational near the new year.

VIII. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, December 18, 2023, via WebEx.

IX. Adjournment

Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m. on September 18, 2023.