

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Meeting Minutes

18 December 2023

I. **Call to order**

Chairperson, Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly, called to order the meeting of the Illinois Forensic Science Commission at 10:01 a.m., on December 18, 2023. The meeting was held via WebEx.

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. Jeff Buford, member
6. Philip Kinsey, member
7. Claire Dragovich, member
8. Robin Woolery, Illinois State Police Director Designee, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services
9. Samuel Del Rio, liaison, Illinois State Police Legal Office
10. Jan Johnson, Commander, Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command
11. Zach Pellman, Lieutenant Colonel, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services
12. Timothy Tripp, Bureau Chief, Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command
13. Cindy Mosley, Acting Chief of Staff, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services
14. Amy Watroba, DuPage County Assistant State's Attorney

III. **Review/Adoption of the Minutes of September 18, 2023.**

The vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of 09/18/2023 was unanimously approved.

IV. **Housekeeping Items**

1. The vote on the updated bylaws was postponed until the next meeting. Members discussed the Open Meetings Act regarding virtual meetings and a

mechanism for which a location and method can be facilitated for public comment. It was noted that these decisions should be made by the future executive director.

2. The following dates and locations were unanimously approved for the 2024 Commission meetings:

Monday, March 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, 1206 W. Gregory, Room 1619, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, 1206 W. Gregory, Room 1619, Urbana, Illinois

Monday, September 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, 1206 W. Gregory, Room 1619, Urbana, Illinois

Monday, December 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., via WebEx

V. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. Quality Systems reported not having held any meetings as there are no assignments at this time.
2. Training and Career Development reported that, after survey, judges requested presentations on firearms, toolmarks, and DNA (emerging technology and recent judicial decisions). Two presentations were held at 26th & California, in Chicago. Judges and clerks attended. It was reported to the subcommittee members that the agenda for the 2024 biennial Judicial Education Conference has been set and Commission members will not present.

Training documents on general forensics, ethics for forensic scientists, and criminal and civil law & testimony have been drafted. Further training methods were discussed, which included recorded and/or web-based presentations on the multiple forensic disciplines, emerging technologies, and recent court challenges or limitations.

3. The Public Policy committee identified the issue of timeliness and per se limits as it relates to blood draws for drug and THC DUI and are in the process of developing a Q&A for subject matter experts.
4. The Technology subcommittee reported meeting in November. 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 during the first quarter of 2024.

VI. Issue for Discussion

1. National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB) – Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery attended the meeting in Austin, November 16th-18th. Approximately 50 people were in attendance from throughout the U.S., New Zealand, and the U.K. The board will be meeting annually. Information can be found at www.nafsb.org. Commission members are welcome to join.
2. Rapid DNA Technology – Commission member Jeanne Richeal provided an overview on rapid DNA technology.
 - i. “Rapid DNA” refers to the “swab-in/swab-out” process of obtaining a DNA profile with little to no human interaction. ISP has incorporated Rapid DNA for use on buccal swabs from homicide victims and those DNA profiles go directly into the DNA database. Rapid DNA also has potential uses at booking stations, and some states are piloting such programs for buccal swabs with the use of the specifically-approved instruments and software. Several things would need to be addressed before Illinois could consider utilizing Rapid DNA at booking stations, including: (1) a law permitting DNA collection at the time of arrest in Illinois would have to be enacted (current law only provides for collection post-indictment for certain offenses); (2) Livescans must be present at booking station locations; (3) an MOU between the State and booking stations is required; (4) an MOU between the State and FBI for CODIS is required; and (5) there are extensive additional requirements for the use of Rapid DNA at booking stations which are outlined by the FBI and available on its website including IT, network, and auditing requirements.
 - ii. In contrast, “Modified Rapid DNA” describes a process where there is interaction by a qualified DNA expert who reviews the DNA profile results generated from the instrument and the expert can use the data in a different way, i.e. for comparisons. There is a lot more involved in Modified Rapid DNA including validation work, training, and annual proficiency testing. DuPage County Forensic Science Center currently utilizes Modified Rapid DNA on standards.

- iii. Director Designee Robin Woolery observed that the lack of an arrestee DNA statute in Illinois is the largest impediment to implementing booking station Rapid DNA in Illinois. She further observed that a separate issue the Commission may want to examine in the future is whether counties are collecting buccal standards from individuals who have been indicted for offenses that make them eligible for post-indictment DNA collection.

VII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, March 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.

IX. Adjournment

Chairperson Brendan Kelly adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. on December 18, 2023.