

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Meeting Minutes

20 March 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 March 20, 2023, at the JTK Administration Building, located at 421 N. County Farm Road, Room 3-500 B in Wheaton, IL.

II. **Roll-call**

The following people were present:

1. Jeanne Richeal, member
2. Caryn Tucker, member
3. Jillian Baker, member
4. Dr. Cris Hughes-Crookshanks, member
5. Carrie Ward, member
6. John Hanlon, member
7. Jeff Buford, member
8. Philip Kinsey, member
9. Claire Dragovich, member
10. Art Hill, member
11. Dan Wright, member
12. Robin Woolery, Illinois State Police Director Designee, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services
13. Samuel Del Rio, liaison, Illinois State Police Legal Office
14. Mary Morrissey, Illinois State Police Chief Policy Advisor
15. Amy Watrobe, DuPage County Assistant State's Attorney

III. **Review/Adoption of the Minutes of December 19, 2022.**

The vote to approve the Meeting Minutes of 12/19/2022 was unanimously approved.

IV. **Housekeeping Items** – no items

V. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. Quality Systems reported finalizing the non-conformities reporting form. On April 28 it will be provided for review and questions.
2. Training and Career Development reported meeting monthly. This committee proposed to participate at the 2024 judicial conference. Proposed curriculum must be drafted. They intend to provide educational opportunities in various areas to include general forensics, courtroom demeanor, and ethics.
3. The Public Policy subcommittee reported meeting multiple times in the last several months. Two handouts were provided. The Commission members discussed the methods to receive notice of changes of legislation to the various state laboratories. The commission members discussed proposed legislation prohibiting the practice of using victim DNA for implications in other crimes in both a CODIS and a private laboratory context. Subcommittee members reported hearing testimony regarding DUI cannabis and expressed that there is more to research. The commission members discussed the creation of a research team to track downstream impacts of forensic laboratories, specifically victim/survivor outcomes and suspect convictions/exonerations.
4. The Technology subcommittee reported meeting twice since the last Commission meeting. Their meetings have focused on phase 1, reviewing technology of the core disciplines (drug chemistry, firearms, forensic biology/DNA, latent prints, microscopy & trace, and toxicology). Phase 2 will focus on looking at emerging technologies to enhance the core disciplines. The subcommittee is also focusing on infrastructure for remote testimonies and two LIMS applications regarding lab workflows and operations.

VI. Issues for Discussion

1. Post Graduate Certification Update – Illinois State Police Major Case Counsel James Piper has been formulating a 40-hour course for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign School of Law (Forensics and the Law Certificate), which will consist of 10 blocks of instruction.
2. Proposal by Dr. Hughes – This proposal focuses on a collaboration with 13 counties, the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), attempting to solve problems related to unidentified and missing person cases.
3. Court Transcript Access – This is a request from the state laboratories to access court transcripts. It was noted that if local prosecutors cannot furnish transcripts, requestors will have to order and pay for them.

4. Executive Director Position – Chairperson Kelly noted that the Commission requires more robust support and his intent is to step down in his role as Chairperson.

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 June 20, 2023, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Carl R. Woese IGB, located at 1206 W. Gregory, Room 1619, in Urbana, IL.

IX. **Adjournment**

Illinois State Police Director Designee Robin Woolery adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m. on March 20, 2023.