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Minutes
Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting
April 20, 2022
Department of Forensic Science, Central Laboratory, Classrooms 1 and 2

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Committee Members Present

23 Randall E. Beaty, *Vice Chair*

24 Maureen C. Bottrell

25 Kathleen Corrado, Ph.D.

26 William E. Demuth, II

27 Erin P. Forry (participated remotely pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2)

28 Linda C. Jackson

29 Marc A. LeBeau, Ph.D.

30 George C. Maha, Ph.D.

31 Patricia A. Manzolillo

32 Richard P. Meyers

33 Kristin Schelling, *Chair*

34 Peter M. Vallone, Ph.D.

35 Kenneth B. Zercie

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Staff Members Present

38 David A. Barron, Ph.D., Deputy Director

39 Sabrina S. Cillessen, Physical Evidence Program Manager

40 Leslie H. Ellis, Human Resources Director

41 James W. Hutchings, Ph.D., Toxicology Program Manager

42 Amy C. Jenkins, Department Counsel

43 Bradford C. Jenkins, Forensic Biology Program Manager

44 David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Controlled Substances Forensic Scientist Senior

45 Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services

46 Jessica B. Norton, Legal Assistant

47 Elise Stroble, Grants and Administrative Program Manager

48 Rebecca Wagner, Ph.D., Research Section Supervisor

49 Robyn B. Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager

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Call to Order

52 Ms. Schelling, the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (“Committee” or “SAC”), called
53 the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Ms. Schelling called on Amy Jenkins to address the remote
54 participation of Ms. Forry. Ms. Jenkins advised that Ms. Forry would be participating remotely
55 pursuant to the SAC’s Policy on Individual Participation in Scientific Advisory Committee
56 Meetings by Electronic Means, and in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3708.2, from South
57 Boston, Massachusetts due to other travel obligations.

58
59 Ms. Schelling welcomed one new member to the SAC, Patricia A. Manzolillo, and had members
60 and staff introduce themselves.

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Adoption of Agenda

47 Ms. Schelling advised that the first order of business was the adoption of the draft agenda for the
48 meeting and noted that the agenda was previously shared with the Committee members via email.
49 Dr. LeBeau made a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Maha and passed by
50 unanimous vote of the Committee.

51

52 **Adoption of Minutes of the October 13, 2021 Committee Meeting**

53 Ms. Schelling noted that the draft minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting were previously
54 shared with the Committee and asked if there were any proposed changes. Being none, Mr. Zercie
55 made a motion that the minutes be approved, which was seconded by Mr. Beaty. The minutes
56 were approved by unanimous vote of the Committee, with Ms. Manzolino abstaining.

57

58 **SAC Chair's Report**

59 The Chair did not have a report.

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61 **DFS Director's Report**

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63 Department Updates

64 Ms. Schelling called on Director Jackson to provide her report to the Committee. Regarding the
65 Central Laboratory capital project, Director Jackson indicated that updated construction/working
66 drawings are in the third review by the Division of Engineering and Buildings (DEB).
67 Groundbreaking/site preparation is currently anticipated to occur in the second quarter of 2022,
68 with the project completion anticipated for late 2024 or early 2025.

69

70 In staffing updates, Director Jackson announced that David Koppenhaver, an Eastern Laboratory
71 Controlled Substances Forensic Scientist Senior, had recently been named as the Northern
72 Laboratory Director.

73

74 The Department has been working on a refresh of its website. The goals of the refresh include
75 updates to current standards for accessibility, increased flexibility for viewing on mobile devices,
76 and an integration of the Qualtrax internal document control system so that procedure manuals can
77 be automatically updated on the website when published.

78

79 The Department received 177 responses to its online Customer Satisfaction Survey that was open
80 from January 27 – February 28, 2022. One hundred and one respondents indicated that DFS
81 exceeds expectations. Forty respondents indicated various areas for improvement, including case
82 turnaround times, availability of toxicologists, and additional customer training.

83

84 A marijuana policy notice was forwarded to user agencies on April 12, 2022. Customers were
85 notified that all Duquenois-Levine field tests had been removed from the list of approved field
86 tests for marijuana plant material under 6VAC40-50. Director Jackson reminded the Committee
87 members that the removal of the Duquenois-Levine field tests under 6VAC40-50 did not affect
88 their approval for use during preliminary hearings in Virginia under Virginia Code § 19.2-188.1(A)
89 and 6VAC40-30. The Department also provided a revised submission policy notifying customers
90 that the Department would accept all underage marijuana possession cases and clarifying the
91 packaging requirements for violations of the home cultivation statute.

92

93 Director Jackson provided information on the Department's PERK Tracking System. All hospitals
94 and almost 80% of law enforcement agencies have been given access and are using the PERK
95 tracking system.

96
97 Director Jackson reviewed the current March Workload Statistics with the Committee. She shared
98 statistics comparing case submissions for each discipline for the first quarter of fiscal years 2019,
99 2020, 2021 and 2022. DNA turnaround times have increased due to the national pipette tip supply
100 shortage, the training requirements to put STRmix online, and increased submissions. Firearms &
101 Toolmarks submissions for NIBIN entry only have dropped due to law enforcement agencies
102 having their own NIBIN capabilities. Toxicology submissions have continued to increase. While
103 the 2022 submissions seem to demonstrate a reduction, the submissions are artificially low due to
104 the outsourcing of OCME cases. Director Jackson discussed the continued downward trend of
105 Controlled Substances case submissions. Current turnaround times were provided for each
106 discipline.

107 108 Budget

109 Director Jackson shared information on the Department's Biennial FY2022 budget, showing a
110 breakdown of the budget by service area and expense category. Director Jackson shared with the
111 Board the four New Budget Items for FY23-FY24, which include funding for:

- 112
- 113 • Five toxicology forensic scientist positions and equipment
- 114 • Additional toxicology positions and supplies for THC data collection
- 115 • Support for a forensic trainer
- 116 • Non-general fund appropriation and non-general FTEs to increase the maximum
117 employment level

118 119 Grants

120 Director Jackson gave an overview of the two (2) grants applied for under the FY2022 DMV
121 Highway Safety Grand Program that will be submitted to the Forensic Science Board for approval.
122 The two applications under this grant program pertain to the DFS Breath Alcohol (BA) Training
123 Program and the DFS TREDIS Data Project.

124
125 Director Jackson advised the Committee that the Department had received the FY2021 Paul
126 Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant. This block grant is shared with the Office of the
127 Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and will be utilized for continuing education for scientific staff
128 and to contract with the Department's LIMS provider for a paperless review process for reports.

129
130 Director Jackson also advised the Committee of two (2) new upcoming grant applications:

- 131
- 132 • DNA Research - Beta testing, validation and implementation of the Biomek® i5
133 automated workstation for forensic biology casework sample processing.
- 134 • Fire Debris Research – Fire debris interpretation using quantitative measures of
135 chromatographic features in medium range ignitable liquids and the use of graphical
136 display to demonstrate data sufficiency.

137 138 Division of Technical Services (DTS) Updates

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DTS Update

Alka Lohmann, Director of Technical Services, provided a DTS staffing update, which included information on the new Quality Assurance Section and a new staff member, and a Forensic Specialist handling Proficiency Testing that will be starting on May 25, 2022.

Ms. Lohmann advised that the current ANAB accreditation expires September 30, 2022. A full reassessment is scheduled to occur the week of June 6, 2022.

DFS continues to have a number of staff members serving as representatives to the OSAC subcommittees that are developing standards for the various forensic disciplines. DFS routinely provides comments on draft standards that are proposed. The Department is reviewing new standards as they are released and conducting a “gap analysis” to determine if DFS is in conformance with the standard, what changes would be needed to meet the standard, or to document where the Department is differing from the standards on the OSAC Registry. Forensic standards and the “gap analysis” documentation will be available to scientists so that they are able to respond to questions posed during testimony about the Department’s implementation of standards on the OSAC Registry.

Ms. Lohmann discussed the graduation of the 105th session of the Forensic Science Academy on April 1, 2022, which was held in person with families and commanding officers in attendance. The 106th session will begin April 25, 2022.

Ms. Lohmann provided an update on two chemistry research grants:

- Paradigm Shift in Forensic Toxicology Screening: The Development and Validation of Two Automated Sample Preparation Techniques for the Comprehensive Screening of Biological Matrices Using High Resolution Mass Spectrometry
- Expanded Quantitative Cannabinoid Testing in Biological Specimens to Combat the Ever-Changing Cannabis Landscape

Chemistry Program Update

Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager, provided an update on the Trace Evidence and Controlled Substances Sections. She discussed the current staffing levels and the various trainings attended by staff from these sections. She also provided an overview of the training provided by the Trace Evidence Section to law enforcement agencies regarding hit and run cases, fire debris, and trace evidence capabilities.

Ms. Weimer advised the Committee that DFS had recently recommended ten (10) compounds to the Board of Pharmacy (BoP) for expedited scheduling at the Board’s June 6th meeting. Ms. Weimer shared information on the Controlled Substances trainings offered to attorneys and judges last fall. The half-day virtual sessions included pre-recorded presentations with live Q&A periods. The Department is considering additional trainings for later in 2022. Ms. Weimer shared information from the joint report with DCJS entitled *Drug Cases Submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science CY2021*, which had recently been released.

185 Ms. Weimer discussed the validation summaries/plans that will need review by the SAC's
186 Controlled Substances Subcommittee in the near future due to expected changes in the Virginia
187 Code from the 2022 General Assembly Session. DFS will need to expand its semi-quant method
188 for plant material to include other tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) if the legislature expands the
189 statutory definition of total THC.

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191 Forensic Biology Program Update

192 Brad Jenkins, Forensic Biology Program Manager, presented an update on the Forensic Biology
193 Program Area, including staffing. Mr. Jenkins discussed the training for STRmix, which went
194 online in December 2021. He reviewed several validations either in progress or currently pending
195 for Forensic Biology. DFS is currently conducting grant funded research on the use of robotics
196 for automated differential lysis. Data Bank staff have been working with the Department of
197 Corrections to train staff on the electronic portal for sample information and pre-submission of
198 sample data that has been developed by the Department. An electronic data submission form, in
199 lieu of a paper form, will be much more efficient. This new DFS system will go live on July 1,
200 2022 now that legislation mandating its use by law enforcement agencies has passed the General
201 Assembly.

202

203 Physical Evidence Program Update

204 Sabrina Cillessen, Physical Evidence Program Manager, updated the Committee on the staffing
205 for the Latent Prints & Impressions, the Firearms & Toolmarks and the Digital & Multimedia
206 Evidence (DME) Sections. Ms. Cillessen advised the Committee that funds were received from
207 the American Rescue Plan Act for three new comparison microscopes and upgrades for three
208 existing scopes for the Firearms & Toolmarks Section. The DME Section is fully staffed and
209 trained. Ms. Cillessen discussed recent advancements in DME analyses that would be helpful to
210 investigators and parties in criminal proceedings.

211

212 Toxicology Program Update

213 James Hutchings, Ph.D., Toxicology Program Manager, updated the Committee on the Toxicology
214 and Breath Alcohol Sections. Dr. Hutchings provided a staffing update for both sections, noting
215 various vacancies that are in recruit, as well as personnel in training. Dr. Hutchings updated the
216 Committee on the two (2) applications that have been submitted for the DMV Highway Safety
217 Office grant. Dr. Hutchings discussed the overall increase of toxicology case submissions from
218 2019 to 2021, and the overall decrease in breath tests during that same time period.

219

220 **New Business**

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222 Toxicology Subcommittee Report

223 Randall Beaty, the Toxicology Subcommittee Chair, provided the SAC with the Toxicology
224 Subcommittee Report. The Toxicology Subcommittee met on April 20, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Mr.
225 Beaty advised that the Subcommittee met to discuss the following materials, which were provided
226 to the members in advance:

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228 Validation Plans and Summaries

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- Ephedrine Confirmation by Liquid-Liquid Extraction and LCMSMS
- Etizolam Quantitation and Confirmation by Liquid-Liquid Extraction using LCMSMS

- 231 • Expansion of the Miscellaneous Base Drugs Quantitation and Confirmation by Solid Phase
232 Extraction Using LCMSMS
233 • Sertraline in the Miscellaneous Base Drugs Quantitation and Confirmation by Solid Phase
234 Extraction Using LCMSMS
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236 **Verification Plan**

- 237 • Verification Plan of Horse Blood for Opioid and Cocaine Quantitation and Confirmation
238 using LCMSMS
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240 After discussing the materials with DFS staff, the Toxicology Subcommittee voted to close its
241 review of all of the plans and summaries. Dr. Vallone made a motion to accept the Toxicology
242 Subcommittee Report, which was seconded by Dr. LeBeau and passed by unanimous vote of the
243 Committee.
244

245 **Controlled Substances Subcommittee**

246 Ms. Weimer advised the SAC that the members of the Controlled Substances Subcommittee had
247 individually reviewed the Department's Validation Plan: Addition of Tetrahydrocannabinol
248 Isomers to Existing Semi-Quantitative Gas Chromatography-Flame Ionization Detection/Mass
249 Spectrometry (GC-FID/MS) Method. After their review, they advised the Department that no
250 Subcommittee meeting was required. Ms. Corrado made a motion to accept the Controlled
251 Substances Subcommittee Report that no meeting was required and the review of the validation
252 plan was closed, which was seconded by Mr. Zercie and passed by unanimous vote of the
253 Committee.
254

255 **Review of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requirements for Committee Members**

256 Ms. Jenkins reviewed the requirements under FOIA for Committee Members.
257

258 **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

259 Ms. Schelling called for the annual election of the Committee Chair and the Vice-Chair and asked
260 for nominations. Ms. Bottrell made a motion to nominate Ms. Schelling for Chair, which was
261 seconded by Mr. Beaty. Ms. Schelling was reelected Chair by unanimous vote of the Committee,
262 with Ms. Schelling abstaining.
263

264 Ms. Schelling nominated Mr. Beaty for Vice-Chair, and Mr. Zercie seconded the nomination. Mr.
265 Beaty was reelected Vice-Chair by unanimous vote of the Committee, with Mr. Beaty abstaining.
266

267 **Public Comment**

268 No public comment was provided or received.
269

270 **Confirm 2022 Meeting Dates**

271 The Committee was reminded that Tuesday October 18, 2022 is its final meeting date for 2022.
272

273 **Adjournment**

274 Ms. Schelling asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. LeBeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting of
275 the Scientific Advisory Committee, which was seconded by Ms. Zercie and passed unanimously.
276 The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.