

Draft Minutes
Meeting of the Forensic Science Board
Department of Forensic Science
Central Laboratory, Classrooms 1 and 2
October 7, 2026

Board Members Present

Graven W. Craig, Esquire
Jennifer Breaux, Scientific Advisory Committee Member
Jae K. Davenport, Deputy Attorney General, Designee of Attorney General Jay Jones, *Vice Chair*
Officer Allen W. Evans, Kilmarnock Police Department
Beth O'Halloran, Designee of Caroline Juran, RPh, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy, *Chair*
Kristen Howard, Executive Director, Designee of Charniele Herring, Chair of the Virginia State Crime Commission
Eric L. Olsen, Commonwealth's Attorney, Stafford County
Senator Russet Perry, Designee of Senator Scott Surovell, Chair of the Senate Courts of Justice
Keshia Singleton, Designee of William Gormley, MD, Chief Medical Examiner
Lieutenant Jonathan Totty, Designee of Jeffrey Katz, Virginia State Police Superintendent
Delegate Vivian Watts, Designee of Delegate Patrick Hope, Chair of the House Courts of Justice
Shane Wyatt, Designee of Denise Toney, PhD, Director of the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

Board Member Present Virtually

George C. Maha, PhD, Scientific Advisory Committee Member

Legal Counsel for the Forensic Science Board

Michelle Welch, Esquire, Office of the Attorney General

Board Members Absent

Karl Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
Ashaki McNeil, Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services

DFS Staff Members Present

Kate Adolf, Western Latent Prints & Impressions Section Supervisor, Acting Western Laboratory Director
Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager
Lafayette Brown, Systems Analyst
Donna Carter, CPA, Director of Fiscal Operations
Samantha M. Glass, Physical Evidence Program Manager
James Hutchings, PhD, Toxicology Program Manager
Amy C. Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director
David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director
Ryan Labor, Northern Controlled Substances Group Supervisor, Acting Northern Laboratory Director

Alka B. Lohmann, Director
M. Scott Maye, Central Laboratory Director
Jessica B. Norton, Legal Assistant Supervisor
David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist
Julie Smith, Director of Human Resources
Farryl Sorokin, Secretary to the Forensic Science Board
Ellen B. Spain, Forensic Evidence Program Manager
Theresa Staropoli, Director of Technical Services
Rebecca Wagner, PhD, Chemistry Research Section Supervisor
Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager
William Wittenbrook, Department Counsel

Call to Order

After verifying that a quorum of the Forensic Science Board (“Board” or “FSB”) was present, Jae K. Davenport, Vice Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Vice Chair Davenport asked all Board members and staff to provide brief introductions.

Chief Deputy Director Amy Jenkins stated for the record that Dr. Maha was participating remotely from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, due to a family illness pursuant to the Board’s Policy on Participation of Forensic Science Board Members in Meetings by Electronic Means Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3.

Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chair Davenport advised that the first order of business was the adoption of the draft agenda for the meeting and noted that the agenda was previously shared with the Board members by Ms. Sorokin. No changes were requested. Vice Chair Davenport then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Senator Perry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Approval of Draft Minutes of the July 15, 2026 Board Meeting

Vice Chair Davenport asked if there were any proposed changes to the draft minutes of the July 15, 2026 meeting that were previously provided. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Olsen made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Board Chair’s Report

Vice Chair Davenport stated that she did not have a report.

Scientific Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Breaux provided a brief report from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) plus the four Subcommittee Meetings held on October 5 and 6, 2026. Vice Chair Davenport asked if there were any questions for Ms. Breaux. There were no questions.

DFS Director’s Report

Director Lohmann provided her report regarding new and ongoing activities of the Department. Below are some key highlights of her presentation:

- DFS celebrated the retirement of Director Linda C. Jackson after 31 years of dedicated service. Effective August 1, 2026, Alka Lohmann was appointed as the new Director of DFS by Governor Abigail Spanberger. Ms. Lohmann has been with the agency for 26 years. For the last 13 years, she has served as the Director of Technical Services. She previously served as the Breath Alcohol Forensic Scientist Supervisor, Section Chief and the Calibration and Training Program Manager at DFS.
- DFS accreditation was renewed in January 2026. She informed the Department's accrediting body, ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), conducted a site evaluation for the new Central Laboratory in May, and the updated certificate and scope have been issued. The current accreditation cycle expires January 31, 2030.
- DFS has received the new Draeger Alcotest® 9510 Breath Alcohol instruments. All software has been tested and received. Updates to Forensic Advantage Breath Alcohol Database (FA BrAD) are pending. Once completed, staff will begin planning for their deployment around the Commonwealth. All breath test operators will need to be trained and licensed on the new instrument.
- DFS continues to transfer firearms comparison cases from the Western Laboratory to the other regional laboratories and selected latent prints cases from the Northern Laboratory to the other regional laboratories. DFS is continuing to outsource selected non-persons cases for DNA testing to Bode Laboratory and edibles cases for THC quantitation to NMS Laboratories. DFS completed outsourcing of OCME toxicology cases from the Western Laboratory on August 31, 2026.
- Director Lohmann reminded the Board that firearms comparisons were halted in the Western Laboratory in April 2025. Additionally, she provided an update about the associated corrective action process.
- In response to a change to the Code of Virginia, DFS distributed an updated policy notice to stakeholders providing submission guidelines of cannabis modifying the submission for simple possession cases to greater than two ounces but less than four ounces.
- DFS received \$1.8 million from the BJA FY25 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Formal Grants Program and received funding from two DMV Highway Safety Office Grants for Toxicology and Breath Alcohol. DFS applied for the FY25 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program for continuing education, but project dates have yet to be announced to date. DFS has applied for two additional grants; National Integrated Ballistic Information Network Modernization Project for \$1.8 million, and FY25 Research and Evaluation for Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded National Forensic Laboratories for just over \$560,000.

Director Lohmann requested Board approval to apply for and accept grant funding if awarded, under the FY25 Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded National Forensic Laboratories.

Vice Chair Davenport asked for a motion to approve the Department to apply for and receive grant funds if awarded. Mr. Olsen made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

During Director Lohmann's presentation, a question was raised regarding the outsourcing of THC edibles, which was addressed. Following her presentation, another question was posed about the current status of kratom in the Commonwealth. This led to further discussion regarding kratom and the possibility for additional legislative action in the upcoming General Assembly session.

Old Business

Dr. Christina Barnes Arrington (Virginia State Crime Commission) provided a status update on the review of Mary Jane Burton (MJB) cases. She reported that all known MJB cases have been reviewed and cross-validated, and the current focus is on verifying the conviction status of 2,844 named suspects.

Tracy Roe (Virginia State Crime Commission) provided an update on the MJB Review Panel. She outlined the provisions of House Bill 2730 and Senate Bill 1465, legislation enacted in 2025, pertaining to the independent panel review of Burton's testing, analysis, and testimony, to determine whether she engaged in a pattern of misconduct. To date, the panel has identified 319 unique cases for review.

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an update on the notification status related to the MJB cases. She informed the Committee that, of the 1,281 confirmed convictions, DFS has sent 569 notices to convicted offenders, 492 individuals have been determined deceased, and 220 individuals are not able to be located based on the information in the DFS case files. DFS continues to cooperate with the Virginia State Crime Commission and the UVA Innocence Project and, as any additional incarcerated individuals are identified, DFS provides the DFS case files for both the independent panel and the UVA Innocence Project coalition of attorneys. DFS is testing the taped down swabs from 28 cases that had previously been excluded from the Post-Conviction (PC) Project. Based on more recent conviction information obtained that conflicted with the information provided during the PC Project, these cases should have been included for testing. As testing is completed, DFS is providing the results to the parties.

Vice Chair Davenport asked if there were any questions regarding the presentations on the Mary Jane Burton updates. There were no questions raised.

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins reviewed the recommended results of the periodic review of five out of the six DFS regulations initiated at the last FSB Meeting.

- 6 VAC 40-20 Regulations for Breath Alcohol Testing
- 6 VAC 40-30 Regulations for the Approval of Field Tests for Detection of Drugs
- 6 VAC 40-40 Regulations for the Implementation of the Law Permitting DNA Analysis Upon Arrest for All Violent Felonies and Certain Burglaries
- 6 VAC 40-50 Regulations for the Approval of Marijuana Field Tests for Detection of Marijuana Plant Material
- 6 VAC 40-60 DNA Data Bank Regulations

On August 10, 2026, the notices for the periodic reviews were published in the Virginia Register Regulations for comment. No public comment was received during the available period. DFS recommended that four of the regulations be retained as is. One change needs to be made to 6 VAC 40-20 Regulations for Breath Alcohol Testing based on the technology being used for the new Breath Alcohol instrument. Specifically, DFS would recommend that the words “by modem” be removed from 6 VAC 40-20-150. She then asked the Board to proceed with the closure of the periodic reviews for the five regulations with a result of “retain as is” and to approve a Fast Track regulatory action to amend 6 VAC 40-20-150 as proposed.

Vice Chair Davenport asked to approve the recommended results of the periodic reviews for the listed regulations, including a recommendation that 6 VAC 40-20-150 be amended via a Fast Track regulatory action as recommended by Chief Deputy Director Jenkins, and that the other listed regulations be retained as is. Mr. Craig made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

New Business

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins briefed the FSB on the existing Electronic Meeting Policy which was previously shared with the Board members by Ms. Sorokin. She informed the Board that they must readopt an Electronic Meeting Policy on an annual basis to comply with law.

Vice Chair Davenport called for a motion to readopt the existing policy in its current form. Mr. Craig made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins briefed the Board on the review and approval of the Board’s Annual Report which was provided to the members in advance of the meeting. She informed the Board the report is in draft form and will be updated with information from the SAC and FSB meetings, as well as statistics that were recently acquired from the Laboratory Information Management System.

Vice Chair Davenport asked if there were any questions. Being none, she called for a motion to approve the Board’s Annual Report with the noted additions and modifications. Mr. Olsen made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was provided. No members of the public commented.

Confirm Next Meeting Dates

Vice Chair Davenport shared the future meetings of the Forensic Science Board: January 6, 2027 (all-virtual meeting), April 21, 2027 (in-person meeting), July 14, 2027 (virtual meeting), and October 6, 2027 (in-person meeting).

Adjournment

Vice Chair Davenport called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Officer Evans made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.