

Draft Minutes
Meeting of the Forensic Biology Subcommittee
of the Scientific Advisory Committee
Department of Forensic Science
October 5, 2026
All-Virtual Meeting

Subcommittee Members Present

Jennifer Breaux
Kathleen Corrado, PhD, *Chair*
Erin P. Forry
George C. Maha, PhD
Peter M. Vallone, PhD

Staff Members Present

Kate Adolf, Western Latents Print & Impressions Section Supervisor, Acting Western Laboratory Director
Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager
David A. Barron, PhD, Deputy Director
Susan Greenspoon, PhD, Forensic Molecular Biologist
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
Anne Pollard, Eastern Forensic Biology Section Supervisor
Cathryn Shannon, Technical Services Forensic Biology Principal Forensic Scientist
David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist
Farryl Sorokin, Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Committee
Theresa Staropoli, Director of Technical Services
Amy Jo Townley, Forensic Biology Assistant Program Manager
William Wittenbrook, Department Counsel

Call to Order by Subcommittee Chair

After verifying that a quorum of the Forensic Biology Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) was present, Chair Corrado called the meeting of the Subcommittee to order at 1:32 p.m. She reminded the members to speak clearly and to keep their cameras on throughout the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Corrado 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 Subcommittee members by Ms. Sorokin. She asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the draft agenda. No changes were requested. Chair Corrado then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Vallone made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

Adoption of Draft Minutes from the April 20, 2026 Subcommittee Meeting

Chair Corrado asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the draft minutes from the April 20, 2026, meeting. No changes were requested. Chair Corrado then called for a motion to adopt the previous minutes. Dr. Vallone made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

Review of the Updated VeritiPro Validation

In advance of the meeting, the members of the Subcommittee were provided with the updated VeritiPro Thermal Cycler Validation which included additional information as requested by the Subcommittee during the April 20, 2026 Subcommittee meeting. Dr. Vallone commended the work done and appreciated the information provided. A question was raised and conversation ensued in reference to model maker data and stutter measurements.

Once the discussion concluded, Chair Corrado asked for a motion to close the review of the VeritiPro Validation. Dr. Vallone made a motion to close the Subcommittee's review of the validation, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

Discussion of Edits to the Forensic Biology Procedures Manual Quality Assurance Program

In advance of the meeting, the members of the Subcommittee were provided with the drafted edits to the Forensic Biology Procedures Manual Quality Assurance Program which would provide guidance to forensic scientists regarding activity level testimony.

Subcommittee members inquired as to the reason manual edits were being made and whether it was prompted by any corrective action or identified quality issue. Ms. Ballard explained that the update was a proactive measure in response to the national discussion on activity level testimony and not in response to any corrective action or identified quality-related issue. Ms. Ballard added that DFS would continue to review the testimony guidance as additional guidance documents from SWGDAM or other bodies were released. She also indicated that this written guidance would support testimony training that was ongoing for forensic scientists.

Once the discussion concluded, Chair Corrado asked for a motion close the review of the edits to the Forensic Biology Procedures Manual Quality Assurance Program. Dr. Vallone made a motion to close the Subcommittee's review of the edits, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was provided. No comments were made.

Adjournment

Chair Corrado asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Vallone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee. The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.