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Minutes
Scientific Advisory Committee
Department of Forensic Science
October 7, 2025
All-Virtual Meeting

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Committee Members Present

Randall E. Beaty
Christopher Bommarito
Jennifer Breaux, *Vice Chair*
Kathleen Corrado, Ph.D.
William E. Demuth, II
Erin P. Forry, *Chair*
Linda C. Jackson
Marc A. LeBeau, Ph.D.
George C. Maha, Ph.D.
Richard P. Meyers
Kenneth B. Zercie

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Committee Members Not Present

Aine Ramirez
Peter M. Vallone, Ph.D.,

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Department of Forensic Science (DFS) Staff Members Present

David A. Barron, Deputy Director
Mason Byrd, Chief Deputy Director
Donna Carter, Director of Finance and Administration
Samantha Glass, Physical Evidence Program Manager
James W. Hutchings, Ph.D., Toxicology Program Manager
Amy Jenkins, Department Counsel
Bradford C. Jenkins, Forensic Biology Program Manager
Joshua Kruger, Northern Laboratory Director
Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services
Jessica B. Norton, Sr. Legal Assistant
Farryl Sorokin, Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Committee
Elise Stroble, Grants & Administration Program Manager
Rebecca Wagner, Ph.D., Chemistry Research Section Supervisor
Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager

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Call to Order

Chief Deputy Director Mason Byrd verified that a quorum of the Committee was present.

Chairman Erin Forry, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (Committee or SAC), called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. She reminded the members to speak clearly and to keep their cameras on throughout the meeting.

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Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Forry 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 Committee members by Ms. Sorokin. With there being no questions or changes, Ms. Forry then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. LeBeau made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes from the April 22, 2025 SAC Meeting

Chairman Forry noted that the draft minutes from the April 22, 2025 meeting were previously shared with the Committee by Ms. Sorokin. Ms. Forry asked if there were any questions or changes to the draft minutes. Being none, Mr. Bommarito made a motion that the minutes be approved, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

SAC Chair's Report

Chairman Forry stated that she did not have a report.

Report from the Controlled Substances Subcommittee

Mr. Meyers, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the October 7, 2025 Subcommittee meeting. He reported that members of the Subcommittee reviewed a validation plan concerning a multipoint calibration curve for the quantitative analysis of heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine. He advised that, after discussion, the Subcommittee members had no recommendations and moved to approve the validation plan.

Chairman Forry asked if there were any questions. Being none, she called for a motion to approve the report from the Controlled Substances Subcommittees. Dr. Maha made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Report from the Toxicology Subcommittee

Dr. LeBeau, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the October 7, 2025 Subcommittee meeting. He reported that the members of the Toxicology Subcommittee reviewed four validation plans. Three of the plans, *Addition of Novel Psychoactive Substances to the Amphetamines, Phentermine, and Designer Stimulants Quantitation and Confirmation by LCMSMS Method; Validation of Volatiles Quantitation and Confirmation by Headspace Dual Column Gas Chromatography Flame Ionization Detection (GC-FID); Validation for the Addition of Seven Novel Benzodiazepines*, were approved to proceed by the subcommittee.

A fourth validation plan was presented, *Utilization of a Circulating Bath in the Amphetamines, Phentermine, and Designer Stimulants Quantitation and Confirmation by LCMSMS Method*. The committee suggested that the plan be modified to increase the number of samples for one experiment, to which DFS agreed. The Subcommittee approved the plan with the agreed upon modification.

89 Chairman Forry asked if there were any questions. Being none, she called for a motion to approve
90 the reports from Toxicology Subcommittee. Mr. Bommarito made the motion, which was
91 seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.
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93 **DFS Director's Report**

94 Director Jackson provided her presentation related to various new and ongoing activities of the
95 Department. Below are some key points of her presentation:

- 96 • The Central Laboratory Capital Project is on schedule to be completed in the final quarter
97 of 2025, with staff moving in mid-January 2026. DFS has contracted with a moving
98 management company to assist with the multi-phased move in.
- 99 • DFS has prepared and sent notices to customers in reference to: (1) new Neck and
100 Fingernails Kits for the collection of trace DNA evidence that started being distributed to
101 health care providers this July for non-sexual assault strangulations, (2) DNA capacity
102 enhancement notice stating that “non-persons” cases are being sent to a private lab, and (3)
103 prioritization of firearms submissions to the DFS laboratories.
- 104 • The Commonwealth of Virginia has launched a new site, the SUDA (Substance Use
105 Disorder Analytics) Dashboard, to collect data from various health and law enforcement
106 agencies. DFS will provide monthly seized drug data using this platform.
- 107 • DFS has executed the contract for new Breath Alcohol instruments and created the
108 purchase order.
- 109 • Prelog for evidence submission will begin Beta testing with two law enforcement agencies.
110 Virginia Code § 19.2-187.01 has been amended to add the term “evidence submission
111 receipt” to the type of form that may be utilized to document proper receipt of evidence by
112 the laboratory, which may be submitted by hand or electronically.
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114 **Division of Technical Services (DTS) Updates**

115 Alka Lohmann, Director of Technical Services, provided an update on the Division of Technical
116 Services. Her report included updates on agency accreditation. DFS had a full on-site assessment
117 performed from September 15-19, with assessors at all four laboratories. The assessment team
118 found that the laboratory conformed to 184 of the criteria and were non-conforming to 5 of the
119 accreditation criteria. DFS is drafting an action plan to address these 5 areas. Additionally, she
120 discussed the graduation of the 115th Session of the Forensic Science Academy, the
121 commencement of 116th session which began September 15, 2025, the various other courses that
122 have been offered by the Forensic Training Section since April, ongoing research projects, staffing,
123 and training.
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125 The Program Managers for the Chemistry, Forensic Evidence, Forensic Biology, Physical
126 Evidence, and Toxicology program areas provided updates on staffing, training, new methodology
127 and caseload statistics for the various disciplines within those program areas.
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129 **Old Business**

131 Dr. Christina Barnes Arrington (Virginia State Crime Commission) provided a status update on
132 the review of Mary Jane Burton cases. Additionally, she outlined the provisions of HB 2730 and
133 SB 1465, legislation enacted in 2025 pertaining to the review of Burton's testing, analysis, and
134 testimony, to determine whether she engaged in a pattern of misconduct.

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136 Ms. Jenkins, Department Counsel, provided an update on the notification status related to the Mary
137 Jane Burton cases and informed the Committee that DFS has sent 448 notices to affected
138 individuals. DFS will continue to send notifications as the Virginia State Crime Commission
139 identifies additional convicted persons.

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142 **New Business**

143 Chief Deputy Byrd briefed the Committee on the existing Electronic Meeting Policy which was
144 previously shared with the Committee members by Ms. Sorokin. He informed the Committee that
145 they must adopt an Electronic Meeting Policy on an annual basis to comply with law.

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147 Chairman Forry asked if there were any questions. Being none, she called for a motion to re-adopt
148 the existing policy in its current form. Dr. Corrado made the motion, which was seconded and
149 passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

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151 Chairman Forry provided a brief overview of ISO 21043 Parts 1-5, the international standard that
152 encompasses the forensic science process.

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154 **Public Comment**

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

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157 **Confirm Future Meeting Date**

158 Chairman Forry shared the proposed dates for future meetings of Scientific Advisory Committee
159 as April 21, 2026, in-person, and October 6, 2026, all-virtual. There were no conflicts for these
160 dates.

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162 **Adjournment**

163 Chairman Forry asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Meyers made a motion to adjourn, which was
164 seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

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