

1 **Minutes**
2 **Meeting of the Forensic Science Board**
3 **Department of Forensic Science**
4 **All-Virtual Meeting (Audio/Visual)**
5 **January 7, 2026**
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8 **Board Members Present**

9 Graven Craig, Esquire
10 Officer Allen Evans, Kilmarnock Police Department
11 Dr. William Gormley, Chief Medical Examiner
12 Karl Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
13 Kristen Howard, Designee for Charniele Herring, Chair of the Virginia State Crime Commission
14 Caroline Juran, R.Ph., Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy
15 George C. Maha, Ph.D., Scientific Advisory Committee Member
16 Richard P. Meyers, Scientific Advisory Committee Member, *Vice Chair*
17 Jackson Miller, Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services, *Chair*
18 Eric Olsen, Commonwealth's Attorney, Stafford County
19 Senator Russet Perry, Designee for Senator Scott Surovell, Chair of the Senate Courts of Justice
20 Theophani Stamos, Deputy Attorney General, Designee of Attorney General Jason S. Miyares
21 Denise Toney, Ph.D., Director of the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
22 Delegate Vivian Watts, Designee for Delegate Patrick Hope, Chair of the House Courts of
23 Justice
24

25 **Legal Counsel for the Forensic Science Board**

26 Michelle Welch, Esquire, Office of the Attorney General
27

28 **DFS Staff Members Present**

29 David A. Barron, Ph.D., Deputy Director
30 Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager
31 Mason Byrd, Chief Deputy Director
32 Donna Carter, Director of Finance and Administration
33 Heather Ford, Sr. Legal Assistant
34 Samantha Glass, Physical Evidence Program Manager
35 James Hutchings, Ph.D., Toxicology Program Manager
36 Linda C. Jackson, Director
37 Amy Jenkins, Department Counsel
38 David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director
39 Joshua Kruger, Northern Laboratory Director
40 Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services
41 Scott Maye, Central Laboratory Director
42 Jessica Norton, Legal Assistant Supervisor
43 Julie Smith, Director of Human Resources
44 David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist
45 Farryl Sorokin, Forensic Science Board Secretary
46 Ellen Spain, Forensic Evidence Program Manager

47 Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager

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49 **Call to Order**

50 Jackson Miller, Chair of the Forensic Scientific Board (“Board” or “FSB”), called the meeting to
51 order at 9:32 a.m. and verified that a quorum of the Board was present.

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53 Two members of the Board had technical issues affecting their access to video for this meeting;
54 however, the quorum was not affected.

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56 **Adoption of Agenda**

57 Chairman Miller asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the draft agenda. No
58 changes were requested. Chairman Miller then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Senator
59 Perry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

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61 **Approval of Draft Minutes of the October 8, 2025 Board Meeting**

62 Chairman Miller asked if there were any proposed changes to the draft minutes of the October 8,
63 2025 meeting that were previously provided. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the
64 minutes. Senator Perry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of
65 the Board.

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67 **DFS Director’s Report**

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

70 • The Central Laboratory Capital Project is on schedule and within budget; relocation is now

71 expected late February to early March due to furniture delivery delays.

72 • DFS recommended two compounds to the Board of Pharmacy that were considered in their
73 December 10th meeting and are currently pending final approval.

74 • The Commonwealth of Virginia launched a new site in October, the SUDA (Substance Use
75 Disorder Analytics) Dashboard, to collect data from various health and law enforcement
76 agencies. DFS provides monthly seized drug data now available to the public.

77 • The contract for new breath alcohol instruments was fully executed on October 3, 2025,
78 and the instruments are currently being customized to meet Virginia specifications. The
79 first shipment of instruments is expected in February. Training for licensure for operators
80 will then be developed and conducted in a phased approach.

81 • The “Prelog” system for evidence submission is in beta testing. Recent vendor updates
82 were made to improve the user experience, which has resulted in the need for additional
83 testing by DFS and revisions to the online training resources for law enforcement.

84 • Firearms comparisons were halted in the Western Laboratory in April 2025 and the
85 capability was removed from the Scope of Accreditation for the Western Lab. DFS
86 conducted internal case reviews as a part of a corrective action and contracted with an
87 external examiner for the review the evidence in a small sample of cases. DFS is requesting
88 that localities resubmit additional cases for review by the contractor. DFS is in the process
89 of updating examination procedures to address issues identified from these reviews.

90 • DFS ended FY25 with a balance of ~\$5,453,000. DFS was approved to carryover funds to
91 pay for the new evidential breath alcohol instruments and to cover transition costs for the
92 new Central Laboratory facility.

93
94 Chairman Miller asked if there were any questions for Director Jackson. There were none.
95

96 **Old Business**

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

101 Department Counsel Amy Jenkins provided historical context, detailing the initial allegations
102 raised by the “Admissible: Shreds of Evidence” podcast, the Scientific Advisory Committee’s
103 review of those allegations, and the Review Subcommittee’s findings and recommendations. She
104 detailed the Department’s notification to law enforcement and prosecutors, and its ongoing efforts
105 to notify affected individuals. Ms. Jenkins discussed the overlap of this review with the Post-
106 Conviction Testing Project. She also reviewed the exonerations and executions worked by Ms.
107 Burton. Ms. Jenkins emphasized that the DFS review of the execution cases established that Ms.
108 Burton’s work had not contributed to the wrongful conviction of any of the individuals who were
109 subsequently executed for their crimes. She also provided a breakdown of the incarcerated cases
110 that will be reviewed by the independent panel established by VSCC, including the current status
111 of those incarcerated individuals, the most serious offenses, and their status in the Post Conviction
112 Testing Project.

113
114 Tracy M. Roe (Virginia State Crime Commission) provided an overview of the Mary Jane Burton
115 Case Review Panel, outlining the purpose of the panel, the members of the review panel, and the
116 application process.

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118 Chairman Miller asked if there were any questions regarding Dr. Arrington, Ms. Jenkins, and Ms.
119 Roe’s presentations. Deputy Attorney General Theophani Stamos provided some comments,
120 emphasizing that the Scientific Advisory Committee had not been able to establish any intent
121 behind the errors/issues with Ms. Burton’s work. In addition, she reemphasized that the Mid-
122 Atlantic Innocence Project’s review of the executed cases had established that Ms. Burton’s work
123 or testimony did not contribute to the wrongful execution of any individual.

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125 **New Business**
126 DFS Counsel Amy Jenkins briefed the Board on the proposed 2026 Amendments Required Due
127 to Central Laboratory Relocation that was previously shared with the Board members by Ms.
128 Sorokin.

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130 Chairman Miller asked if there were any questions. Being none, he called for a motion to approve
131 the 2026 Amendments Required Due to Central Laboratory Relocation. Senator Perry made the
132 motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

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134 **Public Comment**

135 An opportunity for public comment was provided. One member of the public, Shawn Armbrust,
136 with the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, commented. She commended Director Jackson and the
137 agency on their response to the review of the Mary Jane Burton cases. She provided her opinion

138 that, after her review of the eight cases where an individual was executed, she does not believe
139 that Mary Jane Burton's testimony led to an innocent person being executed.

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141 **Confirm Next Meeting Date**

142 Chairman Miller stated that the next meeting will be held on April 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

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144 **Adjournment**

145 Chairman Miller called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Perry made the motion,
146 which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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