

Minutes
Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee
Department of Forensic Science
April 21, 2026

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
Peter M. Vallone, Ph.D.
Kenneth B. Zercie

Committee Member Present Virtually

Aine Ramirez

Department of Forensic Science (DFS) Staff Members Present

Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager
David A. Barron, Deputy Director
Donna Carter, Director of Finance and Administration
Heather Ford, Senior Legal Assistant
Samantha Glass, Physical Evidence Program Manager
James W. Hutchings, Ph.D., Toxicology Program Manager
David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director
Amy Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director
Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services
Jessica B. Norton, Legal Assistant Supervisor
Kevin Patrick, Western Laboratory Director
David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist
Farryl Sorokin, Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Committee
Ellen Spain, Forensic Evidence Program Manager
Rebecca Wagner, Ph.D., Chemistry Research Section Supervisor
Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager

Call to Order

After verifying that a quorum of the Committee was present, Chair Erin Forry, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (“Committee” or “SAC”), called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Chief Deputy Director Amy Jenkins stated for the record that Ms. Ramirez was participating remotely from Houston, Texas, due to a work commitment pursuant to the Committee's Policy on Participation of Scientific Advisory Committee Members in Meetings by Electronic Means Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair 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 October 7, 2025 SAC Meeting

Chair Forry noted that the draft minutes from the October 7, 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. Meyers made a motion that the minutes be approved, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

SAC Chair's Report

Chair Forry stated that she did not have a report.

Report from the Toxicology Subcommittee

Dr. LeBeau, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 20, 2026 Subcommittee meeting. He reported that the Subcommittee discussed two validation summaries: (1) *Addition of Novel Psychoactive Substances to the Amphetamines, Phentermine, and Designer Stimulants Quantitation and Confirmation by LCMSMS Method*, and (2) *Qualitative Addition of Seven Novel Benzodiazepines to the Benzodiazepines, Zolpidem, Zopiclone and Zaleplon Quantitation and Confirmation by LCMSMS Method*. Following the staff overview and subsequent discussion, the Subcommittee closed its reviews of both validations. The Subcommittee also discussed the base screen method development with staff.

Report from the Controlled Substances Subcommittee

Mr. Meyers, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 20, 2026 Subcommittee meeting. He reported that the Subcommittee reviewed two validation summaries: (1) *Quantitative Analysis of Cocaine, Heroin, and Methamphetamine using a Multipoint Calibration Curve by GC-FID* and (2) *Quantitation of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride by UV-Vis Spectroscopy*. Following its consideration, the Subcommittee closed its review of both validations.

Report from the Trace Evidence Subcommittee

Mr. Bommarito, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 20, 2026 Subcommittee meeting. He reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the Department's *Verification Summary for the Micro X-ray Fluorescence (μ-XRF) Spectrometry for the Forensic Comparison of Glass*. Subcommittee members discussed two recommendations regarding additional experiments that could be conducted. Based on instrumental limitations, one recommendation was made. The Review of the verification was closed subject to the additional recommendation of the Subcommittee.

92 **Report from the Forensic Biology Subcommittee**

93 Dr. Corrado, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 20, 2026 Subcommittee meeting.

94 She reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the (1) *VeritiPro Thermal Cyclers Validation and*
95 *accompanying verifications* and (2) the *Validation of the BSD600 Ascent A2 Instrument for*
96 *Precision and Accuracy*. Following questions from the Subcommittee and discussion, the
97 Subcommittee closed the review of both validations.

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99 **Report from the Firearms Subcommittee**

100 Mr. Demuth, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 21, 2026 Subcommittee meeting.

101 He reported that Alka Lohmann, the Director of Technical Services, discussed the corrective
102 action process still ongoing for CTS proficiency test 23-5262 involving unexpected results for one
103 of the four items. There have been additional actions opened connected to the initial corrective
104 action. Ms. Lohmann reviewed the disclosures made to ANAB, the customer notices released by
105 the Department regarding the removal of firearms comparisons from the Western Laboratory
106 scope of accreditation, and the various updates provided to the Forensic Science Board and the
107 SAC regarding the ongoing actions. Ms. Jenkins reviewed with the Subcommittee the
108 various disclosures made by the Department to the prosecutors and the law enforcement agencies,
109 including case lists involving 497 comparison cases for one examiner and 2,173 cases for the other
110 examiner. DFS continues to review cases, having contracted with Ron Smith & Associates, and
111 has expanded the contract to include remote case file review due to difficulties in getting firearms
112 evidence resubmitted for a quality check.

113
114 **DFS Director's Report**

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

- 117 • The Central Laboratory Capital Project is complete, and all DFS operations have moved to
118 the new laboratory. OCME is the midst of their move. DFS will maintain the former
119 laboratory in Richmond until the property is sold. Staff are currently working to get
120 casework back online. A ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2026.
- 121 • The Department's agency bill was passed during the General Assembly. HB680 removed
122 the requirement that meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) take place in
123 the City of Richmond and provided that SAC and FSB members appointed by the Governor
124 shall serve after the expiration of their term until their successor is appointed. Two
125 legislative members from the Forensic Science Board, Senator Perry and Delegate Watts,
126 served as co-patrons of the bill.
- 127 • DFS has created new on-boarding training, entitled "DFS 101," for staff that includes three
128 modules for all staff to provide consistent information about the DFS Quality System,
129 Ethics, and an overview of forensic science.
- 130 • DFS received the first shipment of the new Breath Alcohol instruments, the Dräger
131 Alcotest® 9510, on April 17, 2026.
- 132 • DFS received \$1.8 million from the BJA FY25 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog
133 Reduction Formal Grants Program and applied for two DMV Highway Safety Office
134 Grants for Toxicology and Breath Alcohol with FSB approval.

138 **Division of Technical Services (DTS) Updates**

139 Alka Lohmann, Director of Technical Services, provided an update on the Division of Technical
140 Services. Her report included updates on agency accreditation, which was renewed after
141 remediating findings from the full Reassessment and new scopes have been issued. The current
142 cycle expires January 31, 2030. Additionally, she discussed the graduation of the 116th Session of
143 the Forensic Science Academy, the commencement of 117th session which began April 13, 2026,
144 and the various other courses that have been offered by the Forensic Training Section. She
145 provided further updates regarding ongoing chemistry research projects, staffing, and training.

146
147 The Program Managers for the Chemistry, Forensic Evidence, Forensic Biology, Physical
148 Evidence, and Toxicology program areas provided updates on the Central Laboratory section
149 moves, staffing, training, new methodology and caseload statistics for the various disciplines
150 within those program areas.

151
152 **Old Business**

153 Dr. Christina Barnes Arrington (Virginia State Crime Commission) provided a status update on
154 the review of Mary Jane Burton cases. Additionally, Dr. Arrington outlined the provisions of HB
155 2730 and SB 1465, legislation enacted in 2025, pertaining to the independent panel review of
156 Burton's testing, analysis, and testimony, to determine whether she engaged in a pattern of
157 misconduct.

158
159 Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an update on the notification status related to the Mary
160 Jane Burton cases and informed the Committee that DFS has sent 537 notices to convicted
161 offenders. DFS will continue to send notifications as the Virginia State Crime Commission
162 identifies additional convicted persons.

163
164 **New Business**

165 Chief Deputy Director Amy Jenkins informed the Committee that, with the passage of House Bill
166 680, the Scientific Advisory Committee Bylaws required updates. The Committee was provided a
167 summary of the edits along with a copy of edit suggestions for review. Chief Deputy Director
168 Jenkins informed Committee members that, pursuant to the Bylaws, these proposed changes will
169 be voted on at the October 2026 meeting.

170
171 Chair Forry informed the Committee that, in accordance with the Bylaws, the terms of Chair and
172 Vice Chair are for one year, so they must elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

173
174 Deputy Chief Jenkins made a brief statement of eligibility for members for these positions.

175
176 Nominations for Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee were requested. Mr. Bommarito
177 nominated Erin Forry, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee, with
178 Ms. Forry abstaining.

179
180 Nominations for Vice Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee were requested. Mr. Bommarito
181 nominated Jennifer Breaux, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee,
182 with Ms. Breaux abstaining.

185 **Public Comment**

186 An opportunity for public comment was provided. No members of the public commented.
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188 **Confirm Future Meeting Date**

189 Chair Forry shared the confirmed dates for the future meeting of Scientific Advisory Committee
190 as October 6, 2026, all-virtual.
191

192 **Adjournment**

193 Chair Forry asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Maha made a motion to adjourn, which was
194 seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m. A tour of the new
195 Central Laboratory was provided for Committee members at the conclusion of the meeting.
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