

1 **Draft Minutes**
2 **Meeting of the Forensic Biology Subcommittee**
3 **of the Scientific Advisory Committee**
4 **Department of Forensic Science**
5 **April 20, 2026**
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8 **Subcommittee Members Present**

9 Jennifer Breaux
10 Kathleen Corrado, Ph.D., *Chair*
11 Erin P. Forry
12 George C. Maha, Ph.D.

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14 **Subcommittee Members Attending Virtually**

15 Peter M. Vallone, Ph.D.

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17 **Staff Members Present**

18 Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager
19 David A. Barron, Ph.D., Deputy Director
20 Linda C. Jackson, Director
21 Amy Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director
22 David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director
23 Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services
24 Kevin Patrick, Western Laboratory Director
25 David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist
26 Farryl Sorokin, Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Committee
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29 **Call to Order by Subcommittee Chair**

30 After verification that a quorum of the Subcommittee was present, Dr. Corrado called the meeting
31 of the Forensic Biology Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) to order at 3:19 p.m.

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33 Chief Deputy Director Jenkins addressed the remote participation of Dr. Peter Vallone, who
34 participated remotely due to a work commitment from Gaithersburg, MD, pursuant to the Policy
35 on Individual Participation in Scientific Advisory Committee Meetings by Electronic Means and
36 in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3708.3.

37 **Adoption of Agenda**

38 Dr. Corrado asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the draft agenda. No
39 changes were requested. Dr. Corrado then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. George
40 Maha made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

41 **Adoption of Draft Minutes from the April 22, 2025 Subcommittee Meeting**

42 Dr. Corrado asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the draft minutes from the
43 April 22, 2025, meeting. No changes were requested. Dr. Corrado then called for a motion to adopt
44 the previous minutes. Ms. Forry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous
45 vote of the Subcommittee. Chief Deputy Director Jenkins later identified a typographical error and
46 requested the Subcommittee approve the correction. Dr. Corrado then called for a motion to amend
47 the previous minutes. Ms. Forry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous
48 vote of the Subcommittee.

49 **Validation Discussion**

50 In advance of the meeting, the members of the Subcommittee were provided with documentation
51 concerning the validation of the VeritiPro Thermal Cycler and required site-specific assessment
52 studies for Northern, Western, and Eastern Laboratories.

53 Multiple questions were raised from the Subcommittee members and discussion ensued about the
54 type of comparisons used across the regional labs and what other variance models were used. Dr.
55 Corrado commended the work done. A recommendation was made to add a description of what
56 was done to confirm it was unnecessary to re-validate STRmix in conjunction with the new thermal
57 cyclers to the summary. Elizabeth Ballard agreed to add that information to an addendum.

58 In advance of the meeting, the members of the Subcommittee were provided with documentation
59 concerning the performance check of the BSD600 Ascent A2 Instrument.

60 A question was raised and discussion ensued in relation to the age and type of samples used in the
61 study.

62 Once the discussion concluded, Dr. Corrado asked for a motion to recommend closure of the
63 review of the validation studies. Dr. Maha made a motion to close the Subcommittee's review of
64 the validations, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

65 **Public Comment**

66 An opportunity for public comment was provided. No members of the public were present to
67 provide comment.

68 **Adjournment**

69 Dr. Corrado asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Maha made a motion to adjourn the
70 meeting, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee. The meeting
71 adjourned at 3:33 p.m.