

1 **Minutes**
2 **Meeting of the Forensic Science Board**
3 **Department of Forensic Science**
4 **April 20, 2026**
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7 **Board Members Present**

8 Major Richard Boyd, Designee for Virginia State Police Superintendent Jeffrey Katz
9 Graven W. Craig, Esquire
10 Jae K. Davenport, Deputy Attorney General, Designee of Attorney General Jay Jones
11 Officer Allen W. Evans, Kilmarnock Police Department
12 William Gormley, MD, Chief Medical Examiner
13 Karl Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
14 Kristen Howard, Executive Director, Designee for Charniele Herring, Chair of the Virginia State
15 Crime Commission
16 Caroline Juran, RPh, Executive Director, Virginia Board of Pharmacy
17 George C. Maha, PhD, Scientific Advisory Committee Member
18 Ashaki McNeil, Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services
19 Richard P. Meyers, Scientific Advisory Committee Member, *Vice Chair*
20 Shayne Wyatt, Designee for Director of the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services Denise
21 Toney, PhD
22 Delegate Vivian Watts, Designee for Delegate Patrick Hope, Chair of the House Courts of
23 Justice
24

25 **Board Member Present Virtually**

26 Senator Russet Perry, Designee for Senator Scott Surovell, Chair of the Senate Courts of Justice
27

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

29 Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General
30

31 **Board Member Absent**

32 Eric Olsen, Commonwealth's Attorney, Stafford County
33

34 **DFS Staff Members Present**

35 Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager
36 David A. Barron, PhD, Deputy Director
37 Donna Carter, Director of Finance and Administration
38 Heather Ford, Sr. Legal Assistant
39 James Hutchings, PhD, Toxicology Program Manager
40 Linda C. Jackson, Director
41 Amy Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director
42 David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director
43 Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services
44 Jessica Norton, Legal Assistant Supervisor
45 Kevin Patrick, Western Laboratory Director
46 David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist

Julie Smith, Director of Human Resources
Farryl Sorokin, Forensic Science Board Secretary
Ellen Spain, Forensic Evidence Program Manager
Rebecca Wagner, PhD, Chemistry Research Section Supervisor
Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager

Call to Order

After verifying that a quorum of the Board was present, Richard Meyers, Vice Chair of the Forensic Scientific Board (“Board” or “FSB”), called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Chief Deputy Director Amy Jenkins stated for the record that Senator Perry was participating remotely due to a work commitment pursuant to the Board’s Policy on Participation of Forensic Science Board Members in Meetings by Electronic Means Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3. Senator Perry would be participating by Teams from Loudoun County, Virginia.

Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chair Meyers 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 Board members by Ms. Sorokin. No changes were requested. Vice Chair Meyers then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Maha made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Approval of Draft Minutes of the January 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Vice Chair Meyers asked if there were any proposed changes to the draft minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting that were previously provided. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Delegate Watts made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

DFS Director’s Report

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

- The Central Laboratory Capital Project is complete, and all DFS operations have moved to the new laboratory. OCME is the midst of their move. DFS will maintain the former laboratory in Richmond until the property is sold. Director Jackson discussed the mechanisms DFS implemented during the move to document evidence relocation from the former laboratory to the new facility for chain of custody purposes. Staff are currently working to get casework back online. A ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2026.
- The Department’s accreditation was renewed by its accrediting body, ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) in January 2026.
- The Department’s agency bill was passed during the General Assembly. HB680 removed the requirement that meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) take place in the City of Richmond and provided that SAC and FSB members appointed by the Governor shall serve after the expiration of their term until their successor is appointed. Two legislative members from the Forensic Science Board, Senator Perry and Delegate Watts, served as co-patrons of the bill.

- DFS received the first shipment of the new Breath Alcohol instruments, the Dräger Alcotest® 9510, on April 17, 2026. DFS Breath Alcohol staff will validate the new instrument and begin planning for their deployment around the Commonwealth. Officers will need to be trained and licensed on the new instrument.
- DFS submitted the *Report of Screening of Destroyed DUI/DUID Samples Tested in Calendar Year 2025* to the Virginia DMV Highway Safety Office as required by Appropriation language for DFS.
- DFS continues to transfer firearms cases from the Western Laboratory to the other regional laboratories. Director Jackson reminded the Board that firearms comparisons had been halted in the Western Laboratory in April 2025 and subsequently removed from the Western Laboratory's scope of accreditation. She provided an update about the ongoing corrective action that led to those actions being taken.

Director Jackson requested Board approval for the acceptance of funds for two grant applications made to the DMV Highway Safety Office for funding to support the Breath Alcohol and Toxicology Sections.

Vice Chair Meyers asked for a motion to approve the acceptance of funds for the two grant projects, if awarded. Ms. Howard made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Old Business

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

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

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an update on the 2026 Amendments to 6 VAC 40-30 and 6 VA 40-50 Required Due to Central Laboratory Relocation (Proposed Fast Track) that was initiated in October. She learned this was not necessary as there is a code provision, Virginia Code § 30-150, that allows for minor changes to the administrative code to be made by a simpler Forms process. Based on this information, Chief Deputy Director Jenkins was asked by the Department of Planning and Budget to withdraw the proposed fast-track action. She requested that the Board retroactively approve the withdrawal of the Fast Track regulation.

Delegate Watts made the motion to retroactively approve the withdrawal of the proposed Fast Track regulation, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

New Business

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an overview of several pieces of legislation recently passed in the General Assembly session that could affect DFS. She thanked Delegate Watts and Senator Perry for serving as co-patrons for House Bill 680. After her presentation, Delegate Watts

expressed her concerns in enforcement of nitrous oxide in relation to HB648/SB360 and encouraged dialogue within the law enforcement community to address enforcement.

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins informed the Committee that, with the passage of House Bill 680, the Forensic Science Bylaws required updates. The Board was provided a summary of the edits, along with a copy of edit suggestions for review. Chief Deputy Director Jenkins informed Board members that, pursuant to the Bylaws, these proposed changes will be voted on at the July 2026 meeting.

Vice Chair Meyers informed the Board that, in accordance with the Bylaws, the terms of Chair and Vice Chair are for one year, so they must elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

Nominations for Chair of the Forensic Science Board were requested. Ms. Howard nominated Caroline Juran, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Nominations for Vice Chair of the Forensic Science Board were requested. Ms. Howard nominated Jae K. Davenport, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Public Comment

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

Confirm Next Meeting Date

Vice Chair Meyers stated that the next meeting will be held on July 15, 2026 and will be virtual.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Meyers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Officer Evans made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m. A tour of the new Central Laboratory was provided for Board members at the conclusion of the meeting.