

Draft Minutes
Meeting of the Forensic Science Board
Department of Forensic Science
All-Virtual Meeting (Audio/Visual)
July 15, 2026

Board Members Present

Graven W. Craig, Esquire

Jae K. Davenport, Deputy Attorney General, Designee of Attorney General Jay Jones, *Vice Chair*

Officer Allen W. Evans, Kilmarnock Police Department

Karl Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia

Kristen Howard, Executive Director, Designee of Charniele Herring, Chair of the Virginia State Crime Commission

Caroline Juran, RPh, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy, *Chair*

George C. Maha, PhD, Scientific Advisory Committee Member

Ashaki McNeil, Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services

Eric L. Olsen, Commonwealth's Attorney, Stafford County

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

Lieutenant Colonel Caren Sterling, Designee of Jeffrey Katz, Virginia State Police Superintendent

Delegate Vivian Watts, Designee of Delegate Patrick Hope, Chair of the House Courts of Justice

Shane Wyatt, Designee of Denise Toney, PhD, Director of the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

Legal Counsel for the Forensic Science Board

Michelle Welch, Esquire, Office of the Attorney General

Board Member Absent

William Gormley, MD, Chief Medical Examiner

DFS Staff Members Present

Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager

David A. Barron, PhD, Deputy Director

Donna Carter, CPA, Director of Fiscal Operations

Heather M. Ford, Senior Legal Assistant

Samantha M. Glass, Physical Evidence Program Manager

James Hutchings, PhD, Toxicology Program Manager

Linda C. Jackson, Director

Amy C. Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director

Joshua Kruger, Northern Laboratory Director

Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services

M. Scott Maye, Central Laboratory Director

Jessica B. Norton, Legal Assistant Supervisor

Julianna Red Leaf, Firearms & Toolmarks Section Group Supervisor, Acting Eastern Laboratory Director

David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist
Julie Smith, Director of Human Resources
Farryl Sorokin, Forensic Science Board Secretary
Ellen B. Spain, Forensic Evidence Program Manager
Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager

Call to Order

After verifying that a quorum of the Board was present, Caroline Juran, Chair of the Forensic Scientific Board (“Board” or “FSB”), called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Chair Juran asked all Board members and staff to provide brief introductions.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Juran 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. Chair Juran then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Hade made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Approval of Draft Minutes of the April 20, 2026 Board Meeting

Chair Juran asked if there were any proposed changes to the draft minutes of the April 20, 2026 meeting that were previously provided. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Lt. Col. Sterling made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Board Chair’s Report

Chair Juran announced the upcoming retirement of Director Jackson. She thanked Director Jackson for her 31 years of dedication and outstanding leadership and service to the Department and the Commonwealth. She then congratulated Alka Lohmann, Director of Technical Services, who was appointed by Governor Abigail Spanberger to serve as the new Director of DFS, effective August 1, 2026.

Scientific Advisory Committee Report

Dr. Maha provided a brief report from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the four Subcommittee Meetings held on April 20 and 21, 2026. Chair Juran asked if there were any questions for Dr. Maha. There were no questions.

DFS Director’s Report

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

- Director of Technical Services Lohmann was appointed as the new Director of the Department, effective August 1, 2026. Ms. Lohmann has been with the agency for 26 years. For the last 13 years, she has served as the Director of Technical Services. She previously served as the Breath Alcohol Supervisor and the Calibration and Training Program Manager at DFS.

- The move into the new Central Laboratory has been completed and all sections resumed casework as of June 9, 2026. Governor Spanberger and other state officials joined the Department at the grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony held on June 8, 2026. At the ceremony, the new Training Center was dedicated to the former Director of DFS, Dr. Paul B. Ferrara.
- The Department's accreditation was renewed in January 2026. The Department's accrediting body, ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), conducted a site evaluation for the new Central Laboratory in May, and the updated certificate and scope have been issued.
- In conjunction with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Department recently released the Seized Drug Report for Calendar Year 2025. Overall, drug submissions were down. For the first time since 2018, cocaine was the most common substance identified.
- DFS has received the new Dräger Alcotest® 9510 Breath Alcohol instruments. The acceptance testing for the 220 instruments is pending a minor update to the firmware and data interfacing with the Department's Breath Alcohol Database. Once completed, staff will begin planning for their deployment around the Commonwealth. All breath test operators will need to be trained and licensed on the new instrument.
- DFS continues to transfer firearms comparison cases from the Western Laboratory to the other regional laboratories. Director Jackson reminded the Board that firearms comparisons were halted in the Western Laboratory in April 2025. Additionally, she provided an update about the associated corrective action process. The two open positions for firearms examiners in the Western Laboratory have been reallocated to the Northern Laboratory and are currently in recruit.
- DFS is initiating the procurement process to contract for external firearms training resources. With this external assistance, current firearms examiners could devote more time to case examinations.

Director Jackson requested Board approval to apply for and accept grant funding under the FY2026 National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Modernization Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Chair Juran asked for a motion to approve the Department to apply for and receive grant funds if awarded. Mr. Olsen 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 the Mary Jane Burton cases. She reported the Virginia State Crime Commission have reviewed and cross-validated 100% of known Mary Jane Burton cases. The focus will now move to researching the conviction status of the remaining 2,848 named suspects. Dr. Arrington also provided an update on the independent review panel established by the General Assembly during its 2025 session.

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an update on the notifications made by DFS to affected defendants. Ms. Jenkins informed the Committee that, of the 1,280 confirmed convictions, DFS has sent 561 notices to convicted offenders, 457 individuals have been determined deceased and DFS is unable to locate the remaining defendants with the information contained in DFS files. DFS continues to cooperate with the Virginia State Crime Commission and the UVA Innocence Project and, as any additional incarcerated individuals are identified, DFS provides the DFS case files for both the independent panel and the UVA Innocence Project coalition of attorneys.

Chair Juran asked if there were any questions regarding Dr. Arrington's and Chief Deputy Director Jenkins' presentations. There were no questions raised.

Chief Deputy Director Jenkins reviewed the proposed amendments to the Forensic Science Board Bylaws which were provided to the members at its April 2026 meeting.

Chair Juran asked for a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Forensic Science Board Bylaws. Senator Perry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Director Jackson provided an update on the National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB). With Director Jackson's retirement, the Board was asked to determine if it wished to designate another representative to NAFSB, and if so, who it wished to designate.

Mr. Olsen supported continued participation in NAFSB and nominated Director of Technical Services Lohmann to represent DFS at its meetings. Chair Juran asked for a motion to approve Ms. Lohmann as a representative to the NAFSB. Senator Perry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

New Business

Chief Deputy Jenkins discussed with the Board the need for periodic reviews of five of its six regulations, including:

- 6 VAC 40-20 Regulations for Breath Alcohol Testing
- 6 VAC 40-30 Regulations for the Approval of Field Tests for Detection of Drugs
- 6 VAC 40-40 Regulations for the Implementation of the Law Permitting DNA Analysis Upon Arrest for All Violent Felonies and Certain Burglaries
- 6 VAC 40-50 Regulations for the Approval of Marijuana Field Tests for Detection of Marijuana Plant Material
- 6 VAC 40-60 DNA Data Bank Regulations

Ms. Jenkins discussed the process for a periodic review and requested that the Board initiate that process for those regulations.

Chair Juran asked for a motion to approve the initiation of the periodic reviews. Delegate Watts made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

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Public Comment

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

Confirm Next Meeting Date

Chair Juran stated that the next meeting will be held on October 7, 2026 and will be in-person at the Department’s Central Laboratory in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

Adjournment

Chair Juran called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Perry made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

DRAFT