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**Minutes**  
**Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**October 11, 2011**  
**Department of Forensic Science, Central Laboratory, Classroom 1**

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**Committee Members Present**

21 John M. Butler, Ph.D.  
22 Jo Ann Given, Chair  
23 Pete Marone  
24 Richard Meyers  
25 John Planz, Ph.D.  
26 Alphonse Poklis, Ph.D.  
27 Thomas L. G. Price  
28 Carl Sobieralski  
29 Jami J. St. Clair  
30 Kenneth Zercie

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**Committee Members Absent**

47 Jose R. Almirall, Ph.D.  
48 Dale Carpenter, Ph.D.  
49 D. Christian Hassell, Ph.D.

**Staff Members Present**

50 Wanda Adkins, Office Manager  
51 Jeffrey Ban, Central Laboratory Director  
52 David Barron, Ph.D., Technical Services Director  
53 Sabrina Cillesen, Physical Evidence Program Manager  
54 Leslie Ellis, Human Resources Director  
55 Susan Greenspoon, Forensic Molecular Biologist  
56 John Griffin, Northern Laboratory Director  
57 Gail Jaspen, Chief Deputy Director  
58 Bradford Jenkins, Biology Program Manager  
59 Alka Lohmann, Training and Calibration Program Manager  
60 Stephanie Merritt, Department Counsel  
61 Kevin Patrick, Western Laboratory Director  
62 Steven Sigel, Deputy Director  
63 Robert Scanlon, Forensic Science Group Supervisor, Central Laboratory Forensic Biology  
64 Lisa Schiermeier-Wood, Forensic Science Section Supervisor, Central Laboratory Forensic  
65 Biology  
66 Carisa Studer, Legal Assistant

**Call to Order**

47  
48 Chairman Given called the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (“Committee”) to  
49 order at 9:25 a.m.

50  
51 **Adoption of Agenda**

52  
53 Chairman Given asked if there were any additions or changes to the draft agenda for the meeting.  
54 Being none, Dr. Planz moved to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. St. Clair and  
55 adopted by unanimous vote of the Committee.

56  
57 **Adoption of Minutes**

58  
59 Chairman Given asked if there were any changes or corrections to the draft minutes from the  
60 May 10, 2011 meeting. Ms. Given requested a correction to Line 251 adding Mr. Price as an  
61 appointed member to the subcommittee on Physical Evidence, and noting he was made Chair of  
62 the subcommittee. Mr. Marone requested a correction to Line 121 and Line 125, correcting Mr.  
63 to Dr. Butler requested a correction to the punctuation typo on line 135. Mr. Myers requested a  
64 correction on Line 182, correcting mover to move. Mr. Marone moved to adopt the minutes of  
65 the May 10, 2011 meeting as corrected. Mr. Zercie seconded the motion which was adopted by  
66 unanimous vote of the Committee.

67  
68 **Chair’s Report**

69  
70 Chairman Given introduced and welcomed new Committee members, Dr. John Planz and Mr.  
71 Carl Sobieralski. Ms. Given then asked that the Committee to each introduce themselves, and  
72 Department staff also introduced themselves to the Committee.

73  
74 **DFS Director’s Report**

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76 Regarding facilities, Director Pete Marone informed the Committee that the Eastern Laboratory  
77 is near completion of its move to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, and the 5<sup>th</sup> floor construction plans are ready for  
78 review. The Central Laboratory is looking towards the pre-planning of expanding the Central  
79 building. The biotech 8 building is half way through its lease. Currently, the administrative  
80 space in the Central is moving from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be expanded  
81 to accommodate more examiners. The Western Laboratory has purchased property next to the  
82 existing building for future expansion. The Northern Laboratory’s building was newly built  
83 approximately two years ago, and is ready for staffing growth.

84  
85 Regarding the 30-60-90 day workload summary report, Director Marone summarized average  
86 days in systems for several different sections and reported on progress being made on old cases.  
87 Director Marone noted the growing case load in the Drugs Section due to the amount of evidence  
88 being submitted from Clandestine Labs. The Drugs Section is also seeing an increase in cases  
89 due to synthetic cannabinoids and bath salts. Dr. Poklis commented about the work on synthetic  
90 cannabinoids at the Medical College of Virginia, and the one chemical found in every product.  
91 John Griffin commented that the Northern Lab is analyzing synthetic cannabinoids that have

92 chemicals not listed in the Virginia Criminal Code, and it is expensive to buy standards.  
93 Discussion ensued about the Department's dealings with bath salts.

94  
95 Director Marone discussed the workload in the toxicology and firearms sections. He updated the  
96 SAC on staffing and equipment.

97  
98 Director Marone gave an overview on the status of grants the Department is anticipating to  
99 receive. The Department is not expecting to receive the same amount of federal funded grants as  
100 in the past, so the Department is moving forward by looking at other funding sources. Director  
101 Marone also gave a brief budget outlook for the upcoming General Assembly session.

102  
103 Finally, Director Marone introduced John Griffin, the new Northern Laboratory Director,  
104 replacing Amy Wong who retired. Also, Director Marone introduced Sabrina Cillessen the new  
105 Physical Evidence Program Manager, replacing Ann Davis who also retired.

106  
107 Chief Deputy Director, Gail Jaspén, updated the SAC on the progress of the Post-Conviction  
108 DNA Program. Ms. Jaspén reported that the Department expects to have the project completed  
109 by May 2012 and any other case work that may be requested after that time will be absorbed into  
110 the Department's normal work functions.

111  
112 Dr. Butler inquired about the results that have come out of this PC-DNA Program.

113  
114 Ms. Jaspén summarized that since the grant funded program began, there have been two  
115 individuals that have received writs of actual innocence due to the work done through the PC-  
116 DNA Program. Ms. Jaspén also summarized how the reporting process is done and the  
117 Department's partnership with local law enforcement, Commonwealth's Attorneys, and the Mid-  
118 Atlantic Innocence Project. Director Marone added the in addition to law enforcement and  
119 Commonwealth's Attorney's being notified about Certificates of Analysis, that the suspects  
120 and/or their attorneys are also notified if the Department has known contact information. Ms.  
121 Jaspén elaborated that the Forensic Science Board was given the responsibility of notifying  
122 approximately 1,100 named suspects.

123  
124 **Old Business**

125  
126 Brad Jenkins, Biology Program Manager, gave an update to the Committee by slide presentation  
127 on Stochastic Threshold (ST) Implementation. Mr. Jenkins gave an overview on the background  
128 of ST, and current case statistics. The contract with Cybergenetics (CG) has been in place since  
129 May 2011. Mr. Jenkins also went over the 3 statistical approaches for case work. DFS staff has  
130 also trained with CG, and future training dates are in place. An explanation on CPI (Combined  
131 Probability of Inclusion) calculations and how many DFS cases were included.

132  
133 Ms. St. Clair asked Mr. Jenkins to explain CG's role. Mr. Jenkins explained they provide  
134 statistics for reports, and will provided training to Department staff. He also further explained the  
135 difference in likelihood ratios and CPI statistics.

136

137 Mr. Butler inquired about an article written in the *Washington Post* newspaper and whether the  
138 Department has received any feedback. Mr. Jenkins answered that he as received a few phone  
139 calls and it has been mostly positive feedback.

140  
141 Director Marone summarized to the SAC about his presentation to Commonwealth's Attorneys  
142 and how he had to fully explain the reasoning behind the new ST implementation, and CPI  
143 calculations, and why the Department was applying CPI retroactively.

144  
145 The SAC discussed the Department's role in working with Commonwealth's Attorneys on these  
146 cases. Mr. Jenkins also discussed with the SAC how the Department will be going through its  
147 validation process. The DNA subcommittee will be asked to review the process in advance of  
148 the next SAC meeting in May 2012, and provide feedback. Ms. Given appointed Dr. Butler, Dr.  
149 Planz, and Mr. Sobieralski to the DNA subcommittee, and Dr. Butler will be the Chair.

150  
151 Mr. Jenkins concluded with an update on Familial DNA. He requested the DNA subcommittee  
152 to provide feedback on validation and procedures.

#### 153 **New Business**

154  
155 Sabrina Cillessen, Physical Evidence Program Manager, gave an overview of the Physical  
156 Evidence Program with a power point presentation. Ms. Cillessen went over a summary of her  
157 duties as program manager. She then gave an overview of each discipline that falls under  
158 Physical Evidence which includes, Latent Prints, Firearms/Toolmarks, Question Documents,  
159 Digital Multi-Media, and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis.

160  
161 Ms. Cillessen answered questions about Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, including the technical  
162 review process and types of analysis.

163  
164 Dr. Poklis inquired about Digital Multi-Media and what are the examiner's training and  
165 education requirements. Ms. Cillessen explained that the training was in house, and Director  
166 Marone added the discipline's professional groups have not decided on a specific educational  
167 background and the Department would let the SAC know when there is a specification made.  
168 The SAC members discussed how their individual agencies are handling the same issue.

169  
170 Ms. Cillessen gave an overview on how blind verifications work for the Latent Prints and  
171 Firearms sections. There was discussion how the blind verifications were administered and  
172 reviewed.

173  
174 Ms. Given called for a ten minute break at 11:20 am.

175  
176 The committee resumed at 11:30 a.m.

177  
178 Mr. Price, Chair of the Firearms Subcommittee, gave an update to the SAC on the new firearms  
179 protocols. Mr. Price request that by March 2012 all comments received on protocols be given to  
180 the Department to review for feedback by the next SAC meeting.

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183 Stephanie Merritt, Department Counsel, gave a presentation on the Virginia Freedom of  
184 Information Act (FOIA). Ms. Merritt detailed the SAC what is considered a public record and  
185 what is considered a public meeting. Ms. Merritt clarified the SAC member's obligations for  
186 record retention. Ms. Merritt also discussed with the SAC issues of holding subcommittee  
187 meeting as not to violate FOIA.

188  
189 Ms. Jaspen informed the new SAC appointees of the Conflict of Interest training and asked the  
190 returning members to check their records, and please send the Department of copy of their  
191 completion certificate.

192  
193 Ms. Given announced that neither she nor Dr. Carpenter would not be able to attend the Board  
194 meeting, and appointed Mr. Meyers to attend as the representative of the SAC.

195  
196 Director Marone reminded the SAC should review Firearms and DNA protocols.

197  
198 **Public Comment**

199  
200 None

201  
202 **Next Meeting**

203  
204 The Scientific Advisory Committee meeting dates for 2012 will be Tuesday, May 8, 2012 and  
205 Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

206  
207 **Adjournment**

208  
209 Chairman Given asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Dr. Poklis moved that the meeting of  
210 the Committee be adjourned, which was seconded by Mr. Price and passed by unanimous vote.

211  
212 The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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