



**Department of Forensic Sciences
Science Advisory Board Teams Live Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2023**

The Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) Science Advisory Board (SAB) meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson Dr. Jeanne Jordan at 10:01 a.m. Roll call of SAB members present, in addition to the Board Chair Jordan, included: Dr. LaKeisha McClary, Dr. Eugene Lien, Dr. Henry Swofford, Dr. Michael Pentella and Dr. Tracey Dawson Green. A quorum was established to conduct Board business.

Motion to Approve March 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes: Board Chair Member Jordan
Seconded: Dr. Swofford
Motion to Approve Minutes Passes

Director's Update

Interim Director Anthony Crispino began the director's update by explaining that since we now have new Science Advisory Board Members, we will have continuous meetings moving forward.

He noted that Board Members Mike Pentella and Henry Swofford terms are scheduled to end on April 18, 2023. Dr. Swofford mentioned that MOTA has contacted him regarding his re-appointment and the process has begun. Dr. Pentella doesn't believe that he's heard from MOTA. DFS will follow-up regarding the status.

Interim Director Anthony Crispino proceeded to welcome our newest Board Members to the Team Dr. Tracey Dawson Green (Scientist Member), Department Chair & Professor of Forensic Science (Virginia Commonwealth University), Mr. Eugene Lien (Scientist Member) with Expertise in Quality, Assistant Director at NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Department of Forensic Biology, and Mr. Richard Tontarski (Scientist Member), Principal – IntelliForensics, LLC.

Dr. Jocelyn Hauser (Public Health Director), Crime Scene Sciences Director (Alesia Wheeler-Moore), Chief Information Officer (Tom Fontenot) and Interim Deputy Chief Science Officer (Krystyna Hopkinson – temporarily promoted - FSL) are included as key personnel updates. Key personnel recruitments included a Chief Science Officer (informational interview has produced an extremely qualified candidate), Quality Manager and Quality Assurance Specialists.

Timothy P. Scanlan, Ph.D from Forensic Analysis Consulting Training (FACT) provided an accreditation update which included the purpose for the contract along with the recommended Organizational Structure to assist with moving toward Reaccreditation of FBU and FCU. Thus far, FACT has reviewed SNA report recommendations; developed a strategic plan with the DFS team; provided recommendations to refine organizational structure and necessary staffing requirements; revised critical job descriptions related to leadership and quality; reviewed, revised and aligned critical documents; evaluated, refined, and provided direction on the proper use of Qualtrax.

They have also evaluated and provided direction on the LIMS modules pertaining to accreditation.



Mr. Scanlan also noted that having a vacancy in the CSO and Quality Assurance Manager positions pose challenges/risks to achieve reaccreditation. DFS and FACT have discussed in obtaining the services of a recruiter to assist in filling one or both of these positions.

Dr. Jocelyn Hauser provided an overview of the Public Health Laboratory sequencing, public health and audits. In FY22, 6836 samples were sequence and 5430 samples were submitted to GISAID. During the CMS CLIA Audit (November 2022) two standard-level deficiencies were noted and Corrective Actions for each deficiency were addressed and accepted by CMS. CLIA License was renewed until 2024. The deficiencies were as follows: not addressing corrective actions and closing QCARS/QPARS in the timeframe outline in the current DFS DOM SOPs (CLIA Standard 493.1239a) and not including the reference range in the methadone/EDDP confirmation test report (CLIA Standard 493.1291). Additional PHL successes included an APHL Internship Program Grant Award, 10 New Essays, 6 APHL-CDC Fellows, 10 Conference Presentations, BWU 2022 Award of Excellence, ELC Technical Assistance Program and 23 Assay ELR Implementations.

Krystyna Hopkinson provided an overview of the Validation studies which included POPSTR validation being in progress (started on 1/19/22). QIASymphony validation has been completed along with updated SOPs and STACs. Internal validation is completed with Technical Leader Review for Fired Cartridge Casings Extraction. Equipment has been purchased for the QuantStudio 5/Quntifiler Trio/QIAgilities in addition to being validated. An overview of FSL QCARS and QPARs were provided. DFS will provide a listing of the QCARS and QPARs.

DFS/FSL has partnered with four syringe exchange programs throughout the District to provide qualitative identification of substances. Between January 2022 to January 2023, 2184 syringes were analyzed. The top five CDS detected over the past 13-month period were methamphetamine (32%), fentanyl (25%), cocaine (23%), heroin (12%), and fluorofentanyl (8%). Dr. Swofford requested copies of the DC Syringe Exchange Reports for review. Additionally, Dr. Swofford would like to engage with NIST Leaders. DFS will provide Stakeholder Survey Results to the SAB Board Members for review.

DFS General Counsel, Hillary Hoffman provided an overview as to How a Bill becomes Law in DC.

The SAB will convene the next meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

An audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.