Minutes for the State of North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board Meeting (NCFSAB)

Meeting – January 29, 2014 North Carolina State Crime Laboratory Raleigh, NC

Board members present: State Crime Laboratory Director Judge Joe John, Peter Marone (Chair), Michael Coble (via teleconference), Kermit Channell, Tracey Dawson Cruz (via teleconference), David Hinks, Roger Kahn, Bruce McCord, Christopher Palenik, Deborah Radisch, Leonard Stefanski, Peter Stout, Ronald Singer (via teleconference), Robert Zipf

Board members not present: Amanda Julian, Bethany Pridgen, Alka Lohmann

Others in attendance: Suzi Barker, Mark Boodée, Michael Budzynski, John Byrd, James Faggart, Deena Koontz, Chuck McClelland, Karen Morrow, Joy Strickland, Timothy Suggs, Amanda Thompson, Pete Ware (NCSCL); Doug Holbrook (NCSCL Special Contract Employee); Stormie Forte (SBI Ombudsman); Christine Mumma (Actual Innocence Commission); John Bason, Matthew Boyatt, Kristi Hyman (NC DOJ)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marone at 9:13 am. As the first order of business the board took up the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were amended on Page 2 to reflect that Tracy Dawson Cruz reported for the Forensic Biology Subcommittee, and were then approved.

Following adoption of the minutes NC DOJ Chief of Staff Kristi Hyman presented awards on behalf of Attorney General Roy Cooper recognizing the work of the following board members, who have completed their initial two-year terms: Roger Kahn, Chairman Peter Marone, Bruce McCord, Leonard Stefanski, Peter Stout, and Robert Zipf. Judge Joe John echoed Hyman's remarks praising the contributions of these board members. Thanks were also extended to all board members for their ongoing work.

Recognition was also made for the National Guard service of John Byrd of the NCSCL.

NCSCL Director Judge Joe John delivered his report to the board in the form of a Powerpoint slide presentation, beginning with a review of information that he had previously presented to members of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Judge John presented material regarding ongoing challenges for the NCSCL, and the NCSCL's costs for training and development. The results of a salary study conducted by NC DOJ were also discussed.

Guest speaker Jessica Smith, R.W. Kenan Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC School of Government, addressed the board and answered questions regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts*.

The board recessed at 11:30 following the conclusion of Professor Smith's remarks, and was called back to order at 11:37 to hear a presentation from Joy Strickland, Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Legal Counsel to the NCSCL, who also addressed the topic of *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts*.

The board broke for lunch at 12:00. Complications from a lingering winter storm led the board to compress its agenda for the day. Instead of dining out, box lunches were brought in so the board could continue meeting. At 12:17 the meeting was called back to order.

The board heard a presentation from NCSCL Special Contract Employee Doug Holbrook who reported on his findings regarding the backlog of cases, and retention & compensation issues.

Holbrook's presentation and Q&A ended at 1:07, at which time subcommittee reports were heard.

Mike Coble provided an update on the work of the Forensic Biology subcommittee.

Peter Stout provided an update on the work of the Toxicology subcommittee.

David Hinks provided an update on the work of the Digital, Latent and Trace Evidence subcommittees.

The board's next meeting is scheduled for April 8th 2014.

The board selected July 22nd 2014 as the date for the following meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 PM.