

MINUTES
FORENSIC SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Date: January 24, 2019

Location: North Carolina State Crime Laboratory

The meeting of the Forensic Science Advisory Board was called to Order at 1:01 p.m. ET by Chairman Tim Kupferschmid. Director John Byrd performed Roll Call. A quorum was present.

I. ATTENDANCE

Present: John Byrd, Amanda Thompson, Liz Patel, Katy Schell, Josh Hickman, Zach Kallenbach, Amy Brewer-Slish, Karen Morrow, Chris Parker, Alison Gantt, Jody West, Aaron Joncich, Scott Jones, John Dilday, Timothy Suggs, Anna Baxter, and Jennifer Councilman

Via Teleconference: Dr. C. Todd Hughey, Dr. Deborah Radisch, Dr. Tracey Dawson Cruz, Adam Becnel, Tim Kupferschmid, Dr. David Hinks, Dr. Demi Garvin, Bethany Pridgen, Jamie Becker, Alka Lohmann, Kermit Channell, Dr. Chris Palenik, Michael Jiroutek, Wayne Lewallen and Sara Jessica Farber

Others in Attendance: Jason Caccamo (Lab Counsel), Whitney Belich (Board Counsel, and Angela Towns (Recorder)

Absent: Dr. Michael Coble

II. MINUTES

October 23, 2018 meeting minutes were unavailable for this meeting and subsequently tabled for the next meeting.

III. OATH OF OFFICE AND RENEWAL OATH OF OFFICE

New member introductions from Dr. C. Todd Hughey and Jamie Becker were made, followed by the Oath of Office and renewal Oath of Office by Jennifer Councilman to Adam Becnel, Tim Kupferschmid, Dr. Demi Garvin, and Michael Jiroutek.

IV. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Director John Byrd reported the ASCLD & NAAG Assistance Visit to Puerto Rico to share the ID tracking kit was very good. Director Byrd represented the State Crime Lab along with 13 subject matter ASCLD experts from all over the country.
- Formation of the DPS SAECK working group was mandated under Session Law 28-70. Director Byrd served as vice chair. The group completed its report and turned it over to the General Assembly on December 1, 2018.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS UPDATE [Assistant Director Amanda Thompson]

- Active grants totaling \$9M
 - 1st time recipient of the SAKI grant - applied for \$3M; approved for \$2M
 - Approved for \$2M GCC Sexual Assault Kit Elimination Grant
- In-Progress
 - Application for year 3 of GHSP funding for QTOF instruments
 - Solicitation for 2019 SAKI Funding
 - Awaiting distribution of SAKI and GCC/VOCA funding; delay administrative rather than result of government shutdown. AG expected to hold press conference next week with official announcement to the public.
- Expect to make 10 new inventory and tracking analysts with experience in rape kits
- Releasing drug and workplace policy this quarter
- Evaluating experience employee rights and policies
- Held initial meeting for placement of roof and renovations on 4th floor; follow-up meeting in March
- 32 vacancies – low end 27

VI. TECHNICAL OPERATIONS UPDATE [Assistant Director Liz Patel]

- 14,483 total lab cases (up 3K from previous year)
- Lead time from 176 to 189 day average
- All three (3) Tox labs working to verify efficient method to analyze and screen Tox kits
- Training to begin on 2/11
- 12-Month Trends Analysis
 - Drug chemistry seeing an upward trend with more submissions –longer to work
 - NC Courts Commission supported our expansion requests which is currently with the Governor for consideration.
- Forensic Biology Updates
 - There were 2,100 case records completed in 2018 – not 3,395 as previously reported.
 - There were 86 CODIS hits produced at the onset of outsourcing new rape kits.
 - Direct-to-DNA saves 45 days in testing per kit.

VI: SAECK TRACKING AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT OUTSOURCING
[Director John Byrd]

- Outsourcing is voluntary
 - 1019 SAECKS requested for outsourcing
 - 910 SAECKS were approved for testing
 - 554 completed by vendor labs – 307 of which were negative
 - 86 CODIS hits
- Work group mandated by Session Law 2018-70 mandating law enforcement and medical personnel to establish strategic direction for 15,160 untested kits and those past the 10-1-18 deadline
 - Group met five times from July to November to complete the study
 - Bill drafted for consideration; thinks legislation will come out of this session
 - Assisted by 15 agencies thereby reducing 15K by 1K
 - Predict it will take 4.5 – 5.5 years to complete testing of 15K kits
 - Will work smaller cases as time permits; batches of 25 outsourced to other agencies
 - Outsourcing labs committed to expand with additional funding
 - Only ½ of the \$2M from SAKI can be used for testing
- Went live on October 1, 2018
- 1K users of the servers
 - 65 kits tested in Raleigh or Mecklenburg
 - 577 kits in STIMS with a collection date after 10/1/18
- 12-Month Trends Analysis
 - Multi-year phased approach
 - Requesting \$6M from the General Assembly (avg \$700/kit)
 - Established system to track kits in the system from collection to completion of biology. Ex. Ramsey Street serial rapist:
 - Typical process - 5 weeks
 - Rushed – 30 days
 - Anecdotally worked in less than 3 days with the caveat being there were no other cases being worked in biology and noting it can not be done in every case.

VII: SCHEDULING OF WINTER TELECONFERENCE AND SPRING CONFERENCE

The Spring meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 6-7, 2019. Director Byrd requested the date be moved to avail himself to attend his daughter's college graduation. He proposed the meeting date be changed to May 15-16 to accommodate those traveling on Mother's Day. Director Byrd will poll members to reach a consensus of the board's availability.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

The Board presented no business. Chairman Kupferschmid called for any last minute questions or comments. There were none. With no new business, questions or comments, the Chairman Kupferschmid asked for a Motion to adjourn which was made by Director John Byrd and seconded by Kermit Channell.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.