



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

MEETING AGENDA

August 1, 2014 8:30 AM

Courtyard Marriott – Downtown/Blackstone

601 Main Street

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Phone: (817) 885-8700

The Commission may meet in closed session on any item listed below, if authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551. During this meeting, the Commission may consider and take action on the following items. The Commission may have a morning break, a lunch break, and an afternoon break if necessary:

1. Review and adopt minutes from April 4, 2014 quarterly meeting; review and adopt minutes from April 4, 2014 complaint screening committee meeting. (Di Maio)
2. Office administrative update (summer intern introduction; close of FY2014 budget items and FY2015 budget outlook; developments in data management; Spanish website and form translation). (Garcia/Heidenreich)
3. Discuss and consider recommendations from complaint screening committee concerning pending complaints and laboratory self-disclosures. (Eisenberg)
4. Update on Attorney General Abbott's response to opinion request submitted by District Attorney Rod Ponton regarding arson review by State Fire Marshal. (Garcia)
5. Discussion of Attorney General opinion request regarding confidentiality of pending laboratory self-disclosures under Article 38.01, Section 10 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. (Garcia)
6. Update on arson case review and implementation of recommendations. (Connealy/Vilbas)
7. Update from hair microscopy panel meeting on July 31, 2014, and hair microscopy review team meetings on June 20, 2014 and July 25, 2014; discussion and deliberation on recommended action items. (Kerrigan/Garcia)
8. "Massively Parallel Sequencing and Forensic Identity Testing" by Dr. Bruce Budowle, Institute of Applied Genetics, University of North Texas Health Science Center. (Budowle)

9. Update on Texas Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) Houston regional crime laboratory self-disclosure #12-06, including final Harris County *Coty* appellate decision denying relief, Montgomery County *Cavil* appellate decision granting relief, and latest re-testing results from DPS. (Kerrigan/Garcia)
10. Discuss and consider adopting El Paso Police Department Crime Laboratory #11-11 language clarification addendum request from Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (“TACLD”). (Garcia)
11. Discuss possibility of conducting a survey of latent print forensic service providers in Texas. (Garcia)
12. Update from forensic development committee (Kerrigan/Garcia):
 - a. Update on certification/licensure positions from June 27, 2014 TACLD meeting and subsequent vote by membership;
 - b. Progress regarding certification training support at Sam Houston State University including Commission partnership;
 - c. Status of Web-based forensic training program in collaboration with New York Office of Forensic Services;
 - d. Addition of scenario-based ethics training to training program;
 - e. ASCLD/LAB assessor training to be held August 4-8, 2014 in Austin;
 - f. August 18-19 crime lab manager leadership academy in Houston;
 - g. Discussion of Foresight support for Texas laboratories;
 - h. Addition of TACLD member to Commission’s forensic development committee, including any necessary revisions to policies and procedures;
 - i. Michael Morton Act training request from TACLD; and
 - j. AAFS annual meeting abstracts.
13. Review of policies and procedures, including clarification of professional negligence and professional misconduct definitions particularly with respect to laboratory self-disclosure obligations under Article 38.01, Section 4(a)(2) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. (Garcia)
14. Discussion of potential notification issue regarding ISO-17025 measurement uncertainty reporting changes. (Garcia)
15. Report from May 12-13, 2014 National Commission on Forensic Science meeting. (Di Maio/Garcia)
16. Report regarding appointments to National Institute for Standards and Technology (“NIST”) Organization for Scientific Area Committees (“OSAC”), Forensic Science Standards Board (“FSSB”) and Legal Resource Committee (“LRC”). (Kerrigan/Garcia)
17. Report from June 6, 2014 American Academy of Forensic Sciences/American Bar Association’s June “Prescription for Criminal Forensics” conference. (Garcia/Heidenreich)

18. Report from June 9, 2014 Fire Death Investigations/Post Blast: “Positive Identification of Buried Remains: Resources for Investigators” seminar sponsored by the Collin County Fire and Arson Investigation Association. (Peerwani)
19. Consider updates to composition of Commission committees including complaint screening, legislative and forensic development. (Garcia/Di Maio)
20. Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting. (Di Maio)
21. Schedule and location of future meetings. (Di Maio)
22. Hear public comment. (Di Maio)
23. Adjourn.

To increase public access to meetings, the Commission will endeavor to live-stream all quarterly meetings on its website at www.fsc.state.tx.us. However, the Commission’s decision to live-stream any particular meeting should not be interpreted as a guarantee that all meetings will be live-streamed. The Commission’s ability to live-stream depends on budgetary constraints and logistical considerations at any given meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Coordinator, Leigh Heidenreich, at (512) 936-0770 or leigh@fsc.texas.gov.