

**Texas Forensic Science Commission
Minutes from May 3, 2019 Meeting in Austin, Texas**

The Texas Forensic Science Commission met at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 3, 2019 at the Tom C. Clark Building, 1st Floor Conference Room, 205 West 14th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Members of the Commission were present as follows:

Members Present: Barnard, Budowle, Daniel, Drake, Johnson, Kerrigan, Parsons, Downing, Buzzini

Staff Present: Lynn Garcia, General Counsel
Kathryn Adams, Commission Coordinator
Leigh Savage, Associate General Counsel
Jody Koehler, Senior Scientific Advisor

1. Introduction of newly appointed commissioner Dr. Patrick Buzzini and update on appointments.

Garcia introduced Dr. Patrick Buzzini, Governor Abbott's newest appointee to the Commission. Dr. Buzzini described his scientific background and areas of research to commissioners. Members also announced the April 4, 2019 re-appointment of members Downing, Drake, and Budowle.

2. Review and adopt minutes from January 25, 2019 Forensic Science Commission Quarterly meeting and January 24, 2019 Complaint Screening Committee meeting.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kerrigan moved to adopt the meeting minutes drafts. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

3. Office administrative update (FY2019 budget status report third quarter; TopClass improvements to continuing forensic education platform; Florence litigation).

Staff reported on the status of the FY 2019 budget. The Commission spent about 55% of its budget so far this fiscal year. Staff reported on improvements to its continuing forensic education reporting platform in TopClass, the forensic analyst licensing program's application and reporting software provider. Staff expects to go live with its continuing forensic education reporting platform by the end of May so analysts may begin reporting continuing forensic education credits. Staff also published guidelines for evaluation of CFE credits which are posted on the Commission's website.

Garcia reported on an outstanding lawsuit by complainant Thomas Florence. Garcia is working with a member of the Attorney General's staff who will represent the Commission in the lawsuit.

4. Update from Legislative Committee and legislative activities.

Garcia reported on legislation impacting the Commission and its activities. Peter Stout, President of the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors, gave an update on outstanding legislation directly impacting laboratories.

5. Discuss and revise definitions of professional negligence and professional misconduct.

Members discussed revisions to the Commission's definitions of "professional negligence" and "professional misconduct." In its last session, the legislature defined the term "forensic analyst." Revisions to the definitions of "professional negligence" and "professional misconduct" incorporate the new definition of "forensic analyst" and related activities included in the scope of the term.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to adopt the draft revisions to the Commission's definitions of "professional negligence" and "professional misconduct." Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Staff will publish the definitions in an administrative rule and edit the adopted definitions in the Commission's policies and procedures.

6. Discuss and consider pending complaints and laboratory self-disclosures as well as new complaints and self-disclosures received through April 12, 2019.

Disclosures Received as of April 12, 2019

1. No. 19.05; Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (Forensic Biology)

A self-disclosure by the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences regarding numerous false positive results obtained by a serologist for the Brentamine (acid phosphatase) presumptive test for seminal fluid during screening of sexual assault kit evidence.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to take no further action on the disclosure given the facts that the analyst is no longer employed at the laboratory, and the laboratory has performed extensive root cause analysis and implemented appropriate corrective actions, including reanalysis and customer notification. Kerrigan seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

*Commissioner Barnard recused himself from discussion and vote on this item.

2. No. 19.09; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Firearms/Toolmarks)

A self-disclosure by Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory reporting an incident in its firearms/toolmarks section where firearms examiner Steve Saucedo misidentified a piece of a plastic plant as a 12-gauge shot-shell wad.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to take no further action given the corrective actions taken by the laboratory including case review and revisions to standard operating procedures,*

and the fact that the examiner is no longer employed by a Texas crime laboratory. Johnson seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.

3. No. 19.12; Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (Forensic Biology)

A self-disclosure by Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory reporting an incident in its forensic biology section in which licensed DNA analyst Amanda Schaffner falsified standard curve metrics in a performance check (PC) after maintenance of the quantification instrument, and fabricated the PC plate in the quality check to conceal the fact that she did not actually run it.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to accept the disclosure for investigation of professional misconduct by the analyst and to form an investigative panel consisting of commissioners Budowle, Daniel, Kerrigan. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Complaints Pending from January 25, 2019 Quarterly Meeting

4. No. 18.53; Spence, Michael (Department of Public Safety – Weslaco; Forensic Biology)

A complaint by DNA consultant, Michael Spence, alleging forensic biology test results in a case he reviewed involving defendant, Sam Benson, III, were not obtained by DPS Weslaco analyst, Vanessa Nelson, pursuant to policy.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to dismiss the complaint given the root cause analysis and preventative action taken by the laboratory. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

*Commissioner Johnson recused himself from discussion and vote on this item.

Complaints Received as of April 12, 2019

5. No. 19.04; Collins, Robert (Department of Public Safety – Houston; Forensic Biology)

A complaint by DNA consultant, Dr. Robert Collins, alleging DPS – Houston DNA technical leader falsely reported an inconclusive result that should have been an exclusion in a capital murder trial.

Commissioner Budowle gave a presentation describing the key scientific issues in this complaint. He opined that the casework errors by the analyst were not intentional but resulted from failure to follow certain aspects of the SOP, and a misunderstanding of the limitations of the STRmix software.

Brady Mills addressed questions by Commissioners and discussed the case review process in response to the errors identified in this complaint.

Complainant Dr. Robert Collins addressed the Commission on this complaint. Dr. Collins believes mistakes by the examiner were intentional.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kerrigan moved to accept the complaint for investigation and to form an investigative panel consisting of commissioners Budowle, Parsons, and Buzzini to facilitate the process of case reanalysis by DPS. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Members and Garcia discussed this case as a possible candidate for review as part of Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice's ("Quattrone") Sentinel Event Reviews in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Administration. Quattrone is seeking 15 sites to apply for grants to be part of a sentinel review of nonconformance events in crime laboratories. Information generated from the review will benefit the forensic community locally and nationally. Members and Garcia recommended the Commission apply for a grant to Quattrone/BJA.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to apply for the Quattrone/BJA grant. Drake seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

*Commissioner Johnson recused himself from discussion and vote on this item.

6. No. 19.06; Pentland, Irwin (Department of Public Safety – Austin; Forensic Biology)

A complaint by defendant, Irwin Pentland, alleging DNA profile evidence in his case collected by the Austin Police Department and later tested by the DPS Austin crime laboratory after the closure of the Austin Police Department Crime Laboratory's DNA Section was contaminated and/or tainted to falsely convict him.

The complaint makes a generalized *ipse dixit*¹ allegation of contamination and/or conspiracy due to the shutdown of the Austin Police Department's DNA laboratory without any specific allegation meriting further inquiry. Additionally, the evidence in question was retested by DPS Austin; complainant makes no allegation of negligence or misconduct with regard DPS's testing.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kerrigan moved to dismiss the complaint for failure to state a credible allegation of negligence or misconduct with respect to the forensic analysis in the case. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Terri Buckholtz, complainant's mother, spoke on his behalf at the meeting. She related that Mr. Pentland recently received a court-appointed attorney to address issues identified in his complaint and other issues in his case. Members explained to Ms. Buckholtz that Mr. Pentland's questions are best addressed by his attorney and the court system, and that Commission staff are willing to speak with his attorney regarding his complaint.

*Commissioner Johnson recused himself from discussion and vote on this item.

¹ Something asserted without proof, or a dogmatic expression of opinion.

7. No. 19.07; Collins, Robert (Montgomery County Sheriff's Department; Crime Scene Investigation)

A complaint by DNA consultant, Dr. Robert Collins, alleging Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Investigators conspired with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Willis Police Department, and an Assistant District Attorney in an attempt to plant DNA evidence that would inculcate capital murder defendant Fred Lee.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to dismiss the complaint given the explanation by the crime laboratory, the county attorney and the district attorney's office and to provide copies of these responses to the complainant. Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Complainant Dr. Robert Collins spoke at the meeting to reiterate his belief that the Montgomery County Sheriff's office and other law enforcement conspired to plant DNA evidence that would inculcate capital murder defendant Fred Lee.

8. No. 19.10; Peucker, Ryan (NMS; Seized Drugs)

A complaint by defendant, Ryan Peucker, alleging Integrated Forensic Laboratory (IFL) analyst Nichole Huddleston provided contradictory, deceptive and confusing trial testimony and altered chain of custody documents on a confirmatory (GCMS) test for methamphetamine.

The complainant makes general chain-of-custody and error-in-testing allegations that are unsupported by the materials and the explanation offered by the laboratory.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to dismiss the complaint for failure to state a credible allegation of negligence or misconduct with respect to the forensic analysis in the case given the laboratory's response. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

9. No. 19.11; Horinek, Warren (Tom Bevel; Bloodstain Pattern Analysis)

A complaint by defendant, Warren Horinek, alleging bloodstain pattern expert, Tom Bevel, gave false testimony and scientifically unsupportable bloodstain pattern analysis used at his 1996 trial for the murder of his wife.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to dismiss the complaint because the Commission has already addressed bloodstain pattern analysis resulting from investigation of another case, the age of the case (1996), and because bloodstain pattern analysis is not an accredited forensic discipline. Further, Parsons moved to forward the complaint and an accompanying letter to the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office for vetting by its Conviction Integrity Unit. Johnson seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

*Commissioner Daniel recused himself from discussion and vote on this item.

10. No. 19.13; Amaro-Solis, Domingo (Houston Forensic Science Center; Forensic Biology)

A complaint by defendant, Domingo Amaro-Solis, alleging Houston Forensic Science Center forensic biology analyst, Jisel Bailon, falsely represented her educational background and professional credentials, erroneously reported DNA test results, and made contradictory and misleading statements during her testimony at trial. The complainant also alleges the laboratory (Bode) does not exist.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to dismiss the complaint for failure to state a credible allegation of negligence or misconduct with respect to the analyst's credentials, the existence of Bode as an accredited laboratory or any forensic analysis in the case. Johnson seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

11. No. 19.15; Moore, Adam K. (Texas Tech Physicians of Lubbock; Sexual Assault Examination)

A complaint by defendant, Adam K. Moore, alleging a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) improperly operated a colposcope while performing a physical examination of the 5-year old victim, and provided false and misleading trial testimony in conflict with published reports concerning hymenal injuries sustained by girls who were victims of sexual abuse.

Commissioner Downing, SANE expert, addressed several issues with the way the SANE expert at trial described the injuries to the victim based documents provided by the complainant, including a description of testimony given at trial.

Members discussed the fact that the Commission may not have jurisdiction over sexual assault nurse examinations where the primary purpose of the exam is medical practice and not determining the connection of any physical evidence to a criminal action.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to dismiss the complaint and to contact the Board of Nursing to discuss how to address issues such as those described in the complaint and identified by Downing. Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Member of the public Sam Benson provided comments on complaint numbers #18.53 (above) and #19.02 (heard by the Commission at its last quarterly meeting). He also distributed documents he believed support his allegations, and requested the Commission investigate same.

7. Presentation from NIST representatives on implementation possibilities for OSAC standards and guidelines in Texas and discussion regarding same.

NIST representatives John Paul Jones, OSAC Program Manager, and Karen Reczek, NIST Standards Coordination Office Program Manager, gave a presentation on the structure of OSAC (Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science) and implementation possibilities for Texas. NIST/OSAC consultant Mark Stolorow was also present during the presentation.

Members and NIST representatives discussed possible methods/processes for adoption of OSAC standards in Texas. Members discussed first addressing implementation and recommendation of OSAC's 15 standards currently published on the OSAC Registry, followed by addressing unpublished draft standards secondary to the published standards. Members discussed assembling subject matter groups to evaluate the documents and decide whether and what to recommend from each document.

Members also discussed distributing direct links to outstanding OSAC registry documents to encourage vetting and comment on documents currently in the review process. Members asked staff to send direct link(s) to accredited laboratories in Texas.

Peter Stout briefly addressed the Commission on the Houston Forensic Science Center's adoption and implementation of OSAC standards.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kerrigan moved to pursue outreach to Texas accredited laboratories to inform them of the registry process and encourage comments, and to facilitate adoption and implementation of standards. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

NIST representatives also volunteered to send representatives to assist in facilitating adoption of standards.

8. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:

a. Accreditation non-conformances received since January 25, 2019 quarterly meeting;

Savage described accreditation reports and non-conformances received since the January 2019 meeting.

b. Report on availability of document examination expert inquiry/research; discuss and adopt rule exempting the forensic discipline Document examination from accreditation requirements;

At the Commission's January 25, 2019 meeting, commissioners considered adopting an exemption from accreditation requirements for the forensic discipline of document examination, since there are no accredited entities that conduct document examination analysis for the defense. Currently, there is only one Texas entity (DPS) accredited by the Commission that performs document examination. DPS will perform document examination analysis for the defense, but only where there are no conflicts. Since DPS is the only available accredited entity, that presents a dilemma for defense access to experts. At the January 25, 2019 meeting, commissioners discussed the possibility of approving an exemption for the discipline in light of the constitutional issues presented pending confirmation by staff there are no available accredited entities out-of-state.

Staff identified accredited entities who perform document examination and described findings to commissioners. Staff surveyed 30 agencies, 8 of which were federal agencies. The remaining 22 agencies were contacted to inquire whether they have the capacity and ability to conduct document examination analyses for defense attorneys in Texas. All of the laboratories surveyed could not conduct document examination analyses for Texas defense attorneys either because their laboratory did not have the capacity to accept additional requests or there were legal barriers to accepting out-of-jurisdiction requests or both. One laboratory surveyed offered chemical analysis in the area of document examination, but no handwriting or signature analysis is conducted by the laboratory.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kerrigan moved to exempt document examination from accreditation oversight in Texas. Buzzini seconded the motion. The FSC adopted the motion with 7 members voting for and 2 members voting against.*

Staff will publish a rulemaking to address the change.

- c. Update on final publication of accreditation rules, including the following:**
 - i. CAP forensic drug testing program clarification; and**
 - ii. Exemption for human specimen testing in a CLIA lab; and**

Staff updated members on the publication and adoption of these rules approved at the Commission's January 25, 2019 quarterly meeting.

- d. Discuss inquiry regarding genome sequencing from Ortham, Inc. laboratory.**

Budowle visited the Ortham laboratory and provided a brief update for commissioners. The laboratory plans to conduct genome sequencing and plans to become accredited but has not yet done so.

9. Discuss Licensing Advisory Committee, including:

- a. Update on licenses issued;**

Staff provided an update on licenses issued. Staff has issued a total of 1201 licenses, consisting of 747 regular licenses, 31 provisional, and 423 blanket licenses. Staff issued one additional blanket license that licensed one examiner since the Commission's January 2019 quarterly meeting.

Staff described changes to the Commission's website with respect to licensing, including publication of a descriptive "requirements" document showing the requirements for licensure by discipline. The Commission's website also provides details on exam registration, student exams, reporting continuing forensic education and renewal of licensure as well as a description about how to apply and how to access study materials. Further, staff has published guidelines for reviewing continuing forensic education programs for credit and guidelines for review and approval of courses that fulfill the statistics course requirements.

- b. Update on final publication of licensing rules including the following:**
 - i. Rule expanding pre-Jan 1 exemption to include forensic disciplines later subject to accreditation requirements (e.g., bloodstain pattern analysis);**
 - ii. Rule allowing university students to take forensic analyst and/or technician exam and revisions to rule for provisional licenses and fourth exam requests;**
 - iii. Rule regarding Presiding Officer or Designee authority on criminal history reviews/denials; and**
 - iv. Rule revision to technical reviewers license.**

Staff updated commissioners on the publication and adoption of the above rules. All rules were published in the Texas Administrative Code as of May 3, 2019.

- c. Review outstanding draft licensing rules and proposed rule concepts for approval, including:**
 - i. Continuing forensic education rule updates, including number of discipline-specific training hours required for multiple disciplines, rollover of hours from previous license cycle and clarification of credit for “date-delivered”;**
 - ii. Rule regarding authority to deny for conduct on initial application; and**
 - iii. Revisions to rules post-January 1 requirements.**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to accept all rule proposals as drafted by staff. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Staff will work on publication of all rules approved at today’s meeting.

- d. Discuss Agreed Order pursuant to outstanding license denial due to criminal history;**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to approve the draft Agreed Order and to issue the licensee his/her license as long as the candidate complies with the terms of the Order. Kerrigan seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Staff will send the Agreed Order to the candidate’s counsel for signature.

- e. Update from March 26, 2019 Blanket Rule Task Group and discussion of action items; and**

Staff provided an update from the Blanket Rule Task Group’s March 26, 2019 call. The group directed staff to survey blanket laboratories to determine the percentage of their casework that was Texas-based in 2018. Responses ranged from less than 1 percent to 7 percent of the blanket laboratories’ caseload, representing from as few as 13 cases to 14,386 cases.

Members discussed next steps in determining the appropriate level of oversight for blanket laboratories. The Blanket Rule Task Group will meet again before the Commission's August 16 quarterly meeting and staff will report back with an update.

f. Review licensing advisory board appointments and August 31 expirations; discuss soliciting applications from TACLD.

Members reviewed 5 appointments/seats on the Licensing Advisory Committee expiring August 31. The Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (TACLD) will solicit applications for the positions and provide the Commission with a list of 20 nominees for the seats sometime in July, prior to the Commission's August 16 quarterly meeting. Commissioners will vote on the seats August 16.

10. Presentation concerning Federal and State Legal Developments with respect to Quantitation on THC and Hemp vs. Marijuana.

James Miller, Houston Forensic Science Center Seized Drugs Section Manager, and Charles "Chance" Cline, DPS Chemistry Drug Program Coordinator, discussed outstanding legislation that could have the practical impact of requiring laboratories to quantitate marijuana cases. Miller and Cline addressed the Commission regarding the financial and time constraints a requirement to quantitate would put on the laboratories. With current resources, quantitating all marijuana cases would be impossible and would create a significant backlog in an already backlogged discipline. New instrumentation is needed in all laboratories if quantitation is effectively required.

Members and Garcia will continue to be a resource to legislators on these issues as questions arise.

11. Discuss the creation of a forensic bench book for judges.

Members discussed the creation of a forensic bench book for judges. Members suggested the book should be called a Trial Court Forensic Evidence Handbook. Members discussed hiring someone to assist in the creation of the book as it is a significant undertaking.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to hire an attorney to assist in the coordination and development of the Trial Court Forensic Evidence Handbook. Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Members discussed panels of subject-matter experts in each forensic discipline should be assembled to assist in the production of the book. Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Barbara Hervey offered to assist in production of the book as well.

12. Discuss use of Rapid DNA technology.

Members discussed issues with Rapid DNA technology and the plan of action to address cases tested with the technology outside the crime laboratory setting. Peter Stout addressed the commission on the plan of action in Houston with respect to reviewing the cases that were completed by the Houston Police Department using the ANDE Rapid instrument.

Members requested a copy of the IRB with Harris Health (the institution that collected samples from sexual assault survivors).

Members directed Garcia to draft a letter to ANDE explaining the law in Texas and to request ANDE cease promoting the instrument for evidentiary samples outside the crime laboratory setting.

Gerald Doyle, Harris County District Attorney's Office Conviction Integrity Unit Chief, gave an update on *Brady* notices that have been sent with regard to cases affected.

13. Update on final consulting expert final report and closure of NMS *Torney* DNA review.

Garcia provided an update on the *Torney* matter. The Commission has already finalized its report in this matter. The expert who conducted a review/audit of the incident at the laboratory, Charlotte Word, has issued her report and staff reviewed her findings. Staff will append the expert's report to the Commission's report and close the matter.

14. Review and adopt final report from investigative panel regarding Sorenson DNA Quality Incident Reviews (Forensic Biology) #18.30.

Staff gave an update on the investigation, including a description of a letter from the Innocence Project with regard to a case affected by improper consolidation of samples. Staff plans to address the issues in the IP letter in conjunction with other issues in its final report. Members will review a draft final report in the matter at the August 16 quarterly meeting.

15. Update from investigative panel regarding Culbertson complaint (DPS El Paso; Blood Alcohol) #18.21.

Panel member Kerrigan provided a brief update on the matter. DPS has updated its quality incident report to clarify that no definite determination can be made as to whether the analyst acted intentionally. Staff expects to have a draft report for commissioners to review at the Commission's August 16 quarterly meeting.

16. Update from outside investigative panel regarding *Criner* case (DPS Austin; Forensic Biology) #19.03.

Panel member Dawn Boswell gave a brief update on the investigation. The panel is in the process of reviewing the root cause analysis and will conduct interviews as well. The panel hopes to have the investigation complete by the August 16 Commission quarterly meeting.

17. Update from Crime Scene Investigation Working Group.

Koehler gave a brief update on development of the Crime Scene Investigation Working Group activities, including draft accreditation/oversight rules. NIST offered to assist in the endeavor and staff will reach out to NIST for assistance.

Celestina Rossi, Crime Scene Investigator from Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, gave an update on the roll-out of the Basic Peace Officer Training Course crime scene elements.

18. Review draft guidelines from statistical sampling committee.

Members reviewed a draft document of guidelines for statistical sampling in forensic nonconformances. Staff is currently soliciting feedback on the final document from members of the statistical sampling committee group. The OSAC statisticians task group will also be afforded an opportunity to comment.

19. Update from Probabilistic Genotyping Review Committee and discussion of support for laboratories on validation and implementation of probabilistic genotyping software.

Mike Coble, UNTHSC-CHI Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics, gave a presentation and update on the state of probabilistic genotyping in Texas. Coble emphasized the education that needs to happen in the criminal justice community, particularly with the judges and lawyers with respect to what the software is and how the technology works.

Garcia discussed free trainings hosted by the FBI and RTI on the topic of probabilistic genotyping.

20. Update on triage projects for DNA mixture review; update on Austin Police Department cases under review by UNTHSC-CHI.

Members reviewed a letter from DNA Mixture Review Project coordinator Bob Wicoff. Wicoff reported 3,283 total requests for review. 351 of those cases are still awaiting review. The group has closed 2,475 cases after review and determination either the DNA was immaterial, there was no CPI or otherwise relevant complaint. 149 cases have been sent for recalculation thus far.

Stacie Lieberman introduced herself as the new Capitol Area Private Defender Service's Forensic Project Director. Lieberman reported she is getting up to speed on the review in Travis County and will report back at the Commission's August 16 meeting.

Dawn Boswell, Tarrant County District Attorney's Office Conviction Integrity Unit Chief, reported on the status of the case review in Tarrant County. The county has one case that will result in a re-hearing, and they have been working diligently to close out cases. The county has appointed attorneys in the cases to represent defendants, so the process has taken a little longer than in other counties.

21. Discuss developments with respect to kit backlog reduction and standardization efforts.

Downing gave a brief update on the status of the kit backlog reduction and standardization efforts.

22. Update on Raman Spectroscopy Texas State Bar working group.

Garcia reported on the Texas State Bar group working to evaluate raman spectroscopy technology. DPS has procured an instrument and hopes to have the instrument in the laboratory to begin validation before the end of the month. DPS will be using benchtop Raman instruments that can potentially assist with case backlog issues. Dana Kadavy, Austin Police Department Crime Laboratory Director, reported the APD laboratory has procured a raman instrument as well and will be working on validating the instrument soon. Dr. Buzzini is a member of the Texas State Bar working group evaluating the technology and offered his assistance.

23. Update on Rio Grande ID project.

Budowle gave a brief update on the Rio Grande ID project. UNTHSC-CHI and other entities have made progress with the FBI, the government of Mexico and other governments in the northern triangle region on the ability to compare family reference samples to samples from unidentified remains.

24. Update from Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors.

Stout gave a brief update from the TACLD including a review of various legislative issues. The TACLD plans to submit a list of 20 nominees to the Commission for appointment to the Commission's Licensing Advisory Committee sometime before July.

25. Report from various recent and upcoming conference presentations by staff.

Garcia and Koehler reported on recent and upcoming presentations from various conferences.

26. Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting.

Staff will include all agenda items referenced herein for the next quarterly meeting.

27. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly meetings.

The Commission will meet again August 16, 2019 in Austin, Texas.

28. Hear public comment.

The Commission heard public comment as noted throughout the agenda.

29. Adjourn.