



## TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

*Justice Through Science*

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### **TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION**

#### **MEETING AGENDA**

**July 24, 2020 at 9:00 AM**

Virtual Meeting via GoTo Meeting, Instructions Below

**Due to Governor Greg Abbott's March 13, 2020 proclamation of a state of disaster affecting all counties in Texas due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the July 24, 2020 meeting of the Texas Forensic Science Commission will be held by virtual and telephonic conference call as authorized under Texas Government Code section 551.125.**

**Members of the public will have access and a means to participate in this meeting, by two-way audio, using the following web login or dial-in instructions:**

**[Please use the following meeting login information:](#)**

#### **Forensic Science Commission Quarterly Meeting**

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CDT)

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

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## **Public Participant Instructions:**

If you wish to provide public comment during the meeting on a topic being discussed by Commissioners, please either type your question or comment in the chat box. The meeting facilitator will mute and unmute participants at the direction of the Chairperson. If you are not able to provide public comment during the meeting and still wish to provide public comment, the Commission will have a public comment period at the end of its agenda to address any remaining questions or comments. You may also fill out and email Kathryn Adams the attached Public Testimony Form to [info@fsc.texas.gov](mailto:info@fsc.texas.gov) in advance of the meeting to ensure your public comment is addressed. All public comments are limited to 5 minutes with adjustments as necessary. A recording of the meeting will be available after June 12, 2020. To obtain a recording, please contact Kathryn Adams at (512) 936-0770 or email [kathryn.adams@fsc.texas.gov](mailto:kathryn.adams@fsc.texas.gov).

**During this meeting, the Commission may consider and take action on the following items. The Commission may take breaks as necessary. The timing of agenda items provided below are estimates.**

1. Call meeting to order. Roll call for members. (Barnard) *(2 min)*
2. Instructions for public participation. (Savage) *(3 min)*
3. Review and adopt minutes from June 11, 2020 Forensic Science Commission Complaint Screening Committee meeting June 12, 2020 Forensic Science Commission Quarterly meeting. (Barnard) *(3 min)*
4. Office administrative update (FY2020 budget status report fourth quarter; review final reduced budget for FY20-21). (Garcia/Savage) *(5 min)*
5. Update on statistics course exam administration and list of qualifying courses. (Garcia/Savage) *(5 min)*
6. Discuss and consider pending complaints and laboratory self-disclosures as well as new complaints and self-disclosures received through July 10, 2020 (Daniel) *(45 min)*

### Disclosures Received as of July 10, 2020

1. No. 20.35; Houston Forensic Science Center (Crime Scene Investigation)
2. No. 20.37; NMS Horsham, PA (Toxicology)
3. No. 20.40; Department of Public Safety Austin (Materials (Trace))
4. No. 20.41; Department of Public Safety Houston/Weslaco (Seized Drugs)
5. No. 20.42; Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory System (Seized Drugs, Quantitative Analysis)
6. No. 20.43; Department of Public Safety Tyler (Toxicology)
7. No. 20.44; NMS Labs, PA (Forensic Biology/DNA)

Complaints Received as of July 10, 2020

8. No. 20.08; Day, Laura (Andrea Zaferes; Homicidal Drowning Investigation)
7. Review, discuss and refer past cases to the Office of Capital and Forensic Writs.
8. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including accreditation non-conformances and reports received since June 12, 2020 quarterly meeting.
9. Discuss licensing advisory committee update, including:
  - a. Update on licenses issued and renewed;
  - b. Review outstanding licensing rules and proposed rule concepts for approval, including rule addressing continuing forensic education requirements when adding a forensic discipline during the current license cycle;
  - c. Review nominations and appoint licensing advisory committee members for expiring seats. (Savage) (10 min)
10. Update on development and launch of licensee-required Mandatory Legal and Professional Responsibility Training. (Garcia/Smith) (5 min).
11. Update on statewide validation of qualitative method to distinguish hemp from marihuana; discuss progress on facilitating the use of adjudicated case samples for laboratory research and validation. (Kerrigan) (10 min)
12. Discuss recommendations from investigative panel regarding NMS Labs Grand Prairie (Seized Drugs) disclosure #19.46. (Daniel/Kerrigan/Johnson) (10 min)
13. Update regarding Signature Science (Forensic Biology/DNA) disclosure #20.13 investigative panel. (Johnson/Daniel/Drake) (15 min)
14. Discuss developments with respect to kit backlog reduction and standardization efforts as well as statewide sexual assault task force and recommendations from Dr. Downing re: pediatric examinations. (Downing/Garcia) (5 min)
15. Update from Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors. (Stout) (5 min)
16. Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting. (Barnard)
17. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly meetings. (Barnard)
18. Hear public comment. (Barnard)
19. Adjourn.