



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

*1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445
Austin, Texas 78701*

FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Licensing Advisory Committee (Committee) of the Texas Forensic Science Commission (Commission) met in person and via videoconference on April 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the Barbara Jordan State Office Building at 1601 Congress Avenue, Room 2.034, Austin, Texas 78701.

Members Present: Katherine Sanchez, Chair
Andrew Greenwood
Michelle Paulson
Ashleigh Berg
Celestina Rossi
Lauren Woolridge
Deion Christophe
Jessica Frazier

The following Committee members attended virtually via Zoom: Deion Christophe

Members Absent: Angelica Cogliano

Staff Present: Lynn Garcia, General Counsel
Leigh Tomlin, Associate General Counsel
Veena Mohan, Assistant General Counsel
Robert Smith, Senior Staff Attorney
Chelsea Estes, Commission Coordinator
Jarrah Kennedy, Scientific Program Coordinator
Steve Miller, Multimedia Producer

Members conducted this meeting of the Committee as a videoconference and in-person meeting pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code section 551.127. Members of the Committee and Staff appeared remotely and at the physical location set forth in these minutes.

1. Call meeting to order. Roll call for members. Excuse any absent committee members.

Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Committee members were present as indicated above.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Greenwood moved to excuse Frazier's and Cogliano's absence. Paulson seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously adopted the motion.*

Member Jessica Frazier joined the meeting after the committee took this vote.

2. Review and adopt minutes from the January 29, 2026 meeting.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Rossi moved to adopt the minutes as drafted. Berg seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously adopted the motion.*

3. Administrative update including, but not limited to, update on the number of licenses issued and renewed; and status of the implementation of new license application program (ALiS) (Associate General Counsel Tomlin).

Licensing Program Specialist Soward retired this quarter.

Tomlin updated members and staff on the current total number of licenses issued as of April 8, 2026 (1,390 total), as follows: non-interpreting, 247; provisional, 6; temporary, 8; uncommon, 3; and regular analyst and technician licenses, 1,126; in addition to renewals processed to date.

Staff reported the transfer of licensing data into ALiS, the Commission's newly developed licensing application system.

4. Review any outstanding coursework evaluations.

There were no outstanding coursework evaluations for review by the Committee this quarter.

5. Review any outstanding criminal history evaluations.

There were no outstanding criminal history evaluations or licensee conduct reports for review by the Committee this quarter.

6. Update on development of a guidance document for intra/inter-agency proficiency monitoring programs and standard operating procedures in collaboration with Texas Division of the International Association for Identification (TDIAI), including report from March 30, 2026 – April 2, 2026 Crime Scene Investigator Standard Operating Procedure Development Course in Austin, and establishment of competency exams in connection with voluntary license programs. (Paulson/Rossi/Berg)

Committee members Paulson and Rossi provided an update on the working group developing guidance documents for a model intra- and inter-agency proficiency monitoring program, as well as an in-person training on standard operating procedures (SOPs) for crime scene units. The guidance is being developed specifically for small law enforcement agency crime scene units that require assistance in creating first-time SOPs to comply with the Commission's quality requirements for employing laboratories whose personnel seek Commission licensure.

Members Paulson and Rossi held an SOP-writing workshop at the Barbara Jordan Conference Center in Austin from March 30, 2026, through April 2, 2026. Paulson and Rossi collaborated with members of the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification (TDIAI) to develop competency examinations to satisfy latent print examiner licensure requirements that otherwise would require certification exams, such as the International Association for Identification's Certification Exam for Latent Print Examiners. Paulson and Rossi plan to review the examination to assess difficulty, timing, etc. and will report back to the group. Paulson and Rossi plan to hold additional SOP writing workshops soon.

7. **Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to Section 651.207, Forensic Analyst and Forensic Technician Licensing Requirements, Including Initial License Term and Fee, Minimum Education and Coursework, General Forensic Examination, Proficiency Monitoring, and Mandatory Legal and Professional Responsibility Training, to reduce the number of work experience years required for firearms/toolmarks examiners to qualify for a waiver of coursework or minimum education requirements from five to three years.**

Woolridge requested that the Committee discuss reducing the number of years required for work experience for other mandatory disciplines at the next meeting.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Christophe moved to recommend that the Commission propose changes to the rules as discussed, subject to suggested non-substantive revisions from the Office of the Governor, Texas Register, and Commission staff. Paulson seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously adopted the motion.*

8. **Update and discussion re: Statewide Working Group on Rapid DNA, including March 6, 2026, meeting, and the Licensing Advisory Committee's Rapid DNA Operator License Subcommittee's April 7, 2026 meeting.**

Kennedy provided an update on the work of the statewide Rapid DNA Working Group. The group developed a revised version of the FBI's memorandum of understanding (between accredited laboratories and law enforcement agencies). The group is also creating guidance on which sample types are suitable for this technology. A subgroup of the Committee plans to develop licensing requirements for individuals other than DNA analysts who will be tasked with operating the Rapid DNA instruments. The group intends to work with DPS to develop a curriculum to train future Rapid DNA Operators.

9. **Discuss progress on updating the General Forensic Analyst and Technician Licensing Exam, including group assignments for review of the seven domains, updates from recent exam group meetings, and next steps after contracting with psychometrician service, ACS.**

All seven domain subcommittees for the updated General Forensic Analyst and Technical Licensing Exam (GFALE III) identified and reviewed current and new study materials so that each domain's study materials can be solidified and the subcommittees can begin

working on question development with the psychometricians. Staff had its first meeting with the psychometricians to review the materials and ensure they align with the main objectives identified by the exam syllabus. The expected launch date is January 2027.

10. Update re: Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot (TFAAP) Program, including but not limited to, status of program development and applicable interim charge.

Garcia provided an update on collaborative efforts to establish the TFAAP program in accordance with SB-1620. The pilot program will support 18 apprentices during their first two years of employment. Initially, the pilot program will focus on the following forensic disciplines: seized drugs, blood alcohol analysis, and forensic biology/DNA, with firearms planned for future iterations of the program if it is continued beyond the pilot phase.

11. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (TACLD). (Rossi)

TACLD did not provide an update.

12. Consider possible agenda items for next quarterly committee meeting.

There were no additional agenda items suggested for the next quarterly committee meeting other than those noted above.

13. Schedule of future quarterly committee meetings including, but not limited to, scheduled meetings for July 30, 2026; October 22, 2026; January 28, 2027; and April 29, 2027, and July 29, 2027.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Berg moved to instruct staff to schedule these meetings. Paulson seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously adopted the motion.*

14. Public comment.

There were no additional public comments beyond those previously noted.

15. Adjourn.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Sanchez moved to adjourn the meeting. Christophe seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.*