



Department of Forensic Sciences Science Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Friday, July 21, 2017

The Department of Forensic Sciences Science Advisory Board meeting was brought to order at 9:05 a.m. by board chairman Peter Marone. In addition to the board chairman, board members in attendance included Dr. Namandjé N. Bumpus, Dr. Marie N. Fidélia-Lambert, Dr. Simone Gittelson, Mr. John Paul Jones II, Dr. Jeanne A. Jordan and Dr. Burton Wilcke. A quorum was established to conduct board business. Minutes from the April 28, 2017, meeting were presented, read and approved.

Board member introductions were conducted, specifically recognizing newly appointed board member, John Paul Jones II.

Status of Science Advisory Board Regulations

Mayor's Order has been issued delegating rulemaking authority to DFS enabling advancement of the board rules previously written. The rules will be resubmitted for Register publication and public comment when the City Council returns from recess in September.

Quality Review of Allegations and Issues

Of the four complaints received, three are pending: 1-Unattended firearm dropped and retrieved from the Central Evidence (CEU) corridor; 2 & 3-Personnel actions/complaints against personnel; 4-Anonymous complaint concerning forensic errors (Closed). There was one inquiry from a university who requested and was provided a copy of a testing form to aid in research.

CLIA conducted a 2-day revisit survey of the Public Health Laboratory to review ZIKA MAC ELIZA activities, which are currently offline. Open and closed QCARS (Quality Corrective Action Reports) from last year's internal audits, prior CLIA audits and training records were reviewed. QCARS from September and February surveys remain open and currently receiving priority attention for closeout.

An internal audit of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) uncovered 5 non-conformities and 1 Q-CAR. Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) audit of the Forensic Biology Unit (FBU) scheduled to occur August 15 and August 16. Approximately 95 per cent of audit documentation has been submitted for review. An external desk audit is planned for the Firearms Examination Unit, the Latent Fingerprint Unit and the Forensic Biology Unit.

Forensic Science Laboratory Update/Firearms Issue

Proficiency testing errors by one examiner activated QA system identifying two credible errors in the firearms examination unit. Quality assurance measures taken by the laboratory in response to the testing errors included implementation of 60-day witness verifications, case reviews, convening bi-monthly stakeholder updates and contracting additional examiners to conduct reviews and re-works.

Globalfiler and STRMix Validation

In compliance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's quality assurance standards, on April 1, 2017, the Forensic Biology Unit moved from validation testing of DNA samples using the Identifier Plus Kit to using GlobalFiler. The change has resulted in additional statistical training for FBU staff and the



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laboratory leading stakeholder sessions to explain the changeover and what it means in the analysis of complex mixture samples.

Public Health Laboratory

ZIKA testing samples have been sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention since January 2017. Although the Public Health Laboratory continues molecular testing in-house, negative result samples are referred to CDC as well. To date, a total of 199 serum samples have been sent to CDC for testing. The laboratory's goal is to reinstitute MAC-Elisa testing in-house by August 1, 2017, and to move ZIKA molecular testing to a highly sensitive and fully automated platform.

The SAB was requested to review the Public Health Laboratory's SOP's, worksheets, titration studies and verification studies in support of the laboratory's remediation efforts.

SAB member Simone Gittelson reviewed aspects of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) Report, STRmix & DNA profiles relevant to DFS procedures.

Deputy Director Brittany Graham presented a brief overview of conducting business with the District of Columbia government, vendor requirements and the potential impact on the availability of proficiency test providers. The Board was requested to identify, during the October 20th web-conference, other known sources and providers of proficiency tests for consideration by the Department of Forensic Sciences.

The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.