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**Minutes**  
**Scientific Advisory Committee**  
**Department of Forensic Science**  
**April 22, 2025**

7 **Committee Members Present**

8 Randall E. Beaty  
9 Christopher Bommarito  
10 Jennifer Breaux  
11 Kathleen Corrado, Ph.D., *Chair*  
12 William E. Demuth, II  
13 Erin P. Forry  
14 Linda C. Jackson  
15 Richard P. Meyers  
16 Aine Ramirez  
17 Kenneth B. Zercie

19 **Members Attending Virtually**

20 Marc A. LeBeau, Ph.D.  
21 Peter M. Vallone, Ph.D., *Vice Chair*

23 **Committee Members Not Present**

24 George C. Maha, Ph.D.

26 **Department of Forensic Science (DFS) Staff Members Present**

27 Dave Barron, Deputy Director  
28 Mason Byrd, Chief Deputy Director  
29 Samantha Glass, Physical Evidence Program Manager  
30 James W. Hutchings, Ph.D., Toxicology Program Manager  
31 Amy Jenkins, Department Counsel  
32 Bradford C. Jenkins, Forensic Biology Program Manager  
33 David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director  
34 Joshua Kruger, Northern Laboratory Director  
35 Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services  
36 Scott Maye, Central Laboratory Director  
37 Jessica B. Norton, Sr. Legal Assistant  
38 Kevin Patrick, Western Laboratory Director  
39 Farryl Sorokin, PERK Tracking Coordinator  
40 Ellen Spain, Forensic Evidence Program Manager  
41 Elise Stroble, Grants & Administration Program Manager – SAC Secretary  
42 Rebecca Wagner, Ph.D., Chemistry Research Section Supervisor  
43 Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager

45 **Call to Order**

46 Chief Deputy Director Mason Byrd verified that a quorum of the Committee was physically

47 present and addressed the remote participation of Dr. Marc LeBeau and Dr. Peter Vallone, who  
48 participated remotely pursuant to the Policy on Individual Participation in Scientific Advisory  
49 Committee Meetings by Electronic Means and in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3708.3. Dr.  
50 Vallone participated remotely from Gaithersburg, Maryland due to the meeting being held more  
51 than 60 miles from his primary place of residence, and Dr. LeBeau participated from Anaheim,  
52 California due to a work obligation.

53  
54 Dr. Corrado, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (Committee or SAC), called the meeting  
55 to order at 10:16 a.m.

### 56 57 **Adoption of Agenda**

58 Dr. Corrado advised that the first order of business was the adoption of the draft agenda for the  
59 meeting and noted that the agenda was previously shared with the Committee members by Ms.  
60 Sorokin. With there being no questions or changes, Dr. Corrado then called for a motion to adopt  
61 the agenda. Mr. Zercie made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of  
62 the Committee.

### 63 64 **Approval of Minutes from the October SAC Meeting**

65 Dr. Corrado noted that the draft minutes from the October 8, 2024, meeting were previously shared  
66 with the Committee by Ms. Sorokin. Dr. Corrado asked if there were any questions or changes to  
67 the draft minutes. Being none, Mr. Beaty made a motion that the minutes be approved, which was  
68 seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

### 69 70 **SAC Chair's Report**

71 Dr. Corrado stated that she did not have a report.

### 72 73 **Report from the Controlled Substances Subcommittee**

74 Mr. Meyers, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 22, 2025, Subcommittee meeting.  
75 He reported that members of the Subcommittee reviewed a verification plan from DFS staff  
76 concerning the Department's research on new methods to (1) quantitate methamphetamine  
77 hydrochloride, and (2) extrapolate the number of pills or tablets in a sample based on net weight.  
78 He advised that, after discussion, the Subcommittee members had no recommendations and moved  
79 to close the reviews.

### 80 81 **Report from the Toxicology Subcommittee**

82 Dr. LeBeau, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 22, 2025, Subcommittee meeting. He  
83 reported that the members of the Toxicology Subcommittee reviewed a validation plan for an  
84 added wash step to a cannabinoids extraction procedure, and a validation summary for presumptive  
85 screening for nitazenes. He advised that, after discussion, the Subcommittee members had no  
86 recommendations and moved to close the reviews.

### 87 88 **Report from the Forensic Biology Subcommittee**

89 Dr. Corrado, Subcommittee Chair, reported on the April 22, 2025, Subcommittee meeting. She  
90 reported that the members of the Forensic Biology Subcommittee reviewed the validation of the  
91 PowerQuant® system on the QuantStudio™ 5 PCR instrument. She advised that, after discussion,  
92 the Subcommittee members had no recommendations and moved to close the reviews.

93  
94 Dr. Corrado asked if there were any questions. Being none, she called for a motion to approve the  
95 reports from the three Subcommittees. Erin Forry made the motion, which was seconded and  
96 passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.  
97

### 98 **DFS Director's Report**

99 Director Jackson provided her presentation related to various new and ongoing activities of the  
100 Department. Below are some key points of her presentation.

- 101 • The Central Lab Capital Project is on schedule to be completed in the final quarter of 2025,  
102 with staff moving in early 2026. The majority of the exterior work has been completed,  
103 and interior workstations are in development.
- 104 • Governor Youngkin recognized April 1 - April 6, 2025, as Property and Evidence  
105 Professionals Week.
- 106 • DFS has prepared and sent notices to customers in reference to: (1) the use of M-VACs for  
107 collecting DNA, (2) prioritization of Firearms submissions to the labs, and (3) an additional  
108 presumptive mobile drug testing instrument that was approved for use in the  
109 Commonwealth.
- 110 • DFS has selected a vendor to produce "Neck and Fingernail Kits" (Trace Evidence  
111 Collection Kits) pursuant to HB 1250 (2023).
- 112 • Prelog for evidence submission is in Beta testing with a select number of law enforcement  
113 agencies. Virginia Code § 19.2-187.01 has been amended to add the term "evidence  
114 submission receipt" to the type of form that may be utilized to document proper receipt of  
115 evidence by the laboratory, which may be submitted by hand or electronically.  
116

117 Aine Ramirez commented on the fact that a LIMS has been helpful in the Federal lab system to  
118 help document the movement of evidence between lab locations and asked if DFS plans to use this  
119 system to help manage caseloads and movement of evidence. Director Jackson noted that the DFS  
120 LIMS helps management track caseloads at labs and locations.  
121

### 122 **Division of Technical Services (DTS) Updates**

123 Alka Lohmann, Director of Technical Services, provided an update on the Division of Technical  
124 Services. Her report included updates on agency accreditation, the graduation of the 113th and  
125 114<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Forensic Science Academy and the various other courses that have been  
126 offered by the Forensic Training Section since April, ongoing research projects, staffing, and  
127 training. Ms. Lohmann also provided an update on a previous disclosure made to the accrediting  
128 body in reference to an unexpected result on a proficiency test from the Western Lab Firearms  
129 Section. She advised that the laboratory is following its corrective action process and there are  
130 currently no authorized comparison examiners in the Western Laboratory.  
131

132 The Program Managers for the Chemistry, Forensic Evidence, Forensic Biology, Physical  
133 Evidence, and Toxicology program areas provided updates on staffing, training, new methodology  
134 and caseload statistics for the various disciplines within those program areas.  
135

136 Following the Forensic Evidence program report, Erin Forry acknowledged and commended Ms.  
137 Spain and DFS for the continuous and proactive work being made regarding property and evidence  
138 and the professionalism of staff.

139  
140 Following the Physical Evidence program report, a question was raised by Dr. Corrado about  
141 DFS's use of the Cadre Forensics system for firearms cases. Ms. Glass stated that one DFS lab  
142 uses this tool for sampling cases. In response to a question about whether DFS plans to use this  
143 system statewide, Director Jackson advised that DFS would need to go through a full procurement  
144 process to determine which system might be purchased.

145  
146 **Old Business**

147 Dr. Christina Barnes Arrington (Virginia State Crime Commission) provided a status update on  
148 the review Mary Jane Burton cases. Additionally, she outlined the provisions of HB 2730 and SB  
149 1465, legislation enacted in 2025 pertaining to the review of Burton's testing, analysis, and  
150 testimony, to determine whether she engaged in a pattern of misconduct.

151  
152 Ms. Jenkins, Department Counsel, provided an update on the Mary Jane Burton cases. She  
153 discussed the notification status to date and informed the Committee that DFS has sent 237 notices  
154 to date and has received responses from inmates and law enforcement that are being reviewed.

155  
156 Following Ms. Jenkins' update, Mr. Meyers asked if this work overlapped with previous work.  
157 Ms. Jenkins advised that the conviction information they have was gathered from the Post-  
158 Conviction project, the Microscopic Hair Comparison project, and from responses from law  
159 enforcement pursuant to DFS notifications. This has led to a number of people receiving more than  
160 one notification from DFS.

161  
162 **New Business**

163 Dr. Corrado informed the Committee that, in accordance with the By-Laws, the terms of Chair and  
164 Vice Chair are for one year, so they must elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

165  
166 Mr. Byrd made a brief statement of eligibility for members for these positions.

167  
168 Nominations for Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee were requested. Dr. Corrado  
169 nominated Erin Forry, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee, with  
170 Ms. Forry abstaining.

171  
172 Nominations for Vice Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee were requested. Erin Forry  
173 nominated Jennifer Breaux, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee,  
174 with Ms. Breaux abstaining.

175  
176 **Public Comment**

177 There was no public comment.

178  
179 **Confirm Future Meeting Date**

180 Dr. Corrado stated that the next meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee is October 7, 2025,  
181 and will be virtual.

182  
183 **Adjournment**

184 Dr. Corrado asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Zercie made a motion to adjourn, which was  
185 seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.