

1 **Draft Minutes**  
2 **Meeting of the Forensic Science Board**  
3 **Department of Forensic Science**  
4 **April 20, 2026**  
5  
6

7 **Board Members Present**

8 Major Richard Boyd, Designee for Virginia State Police Superintendent Jeffrey Katz  
9 Graven W. Craig, Esquire  
10 Jae K. Davenport, Deputy Attorney General, Designee of Attorney General Jay Jones  
11 Officer Allen W. Evans, Kilmarnock Police Department  
12 William Gormley, MD, Chief Medical Examiner  
13 Karl Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia  
14 Kristen Howard, Executive Director, Designee for Charniele Herring, Chair of the Virginia State  
15 Crime Commission  
16 Caroline Juran, RPh, Executive Director, Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
17 George C. Maha, PhD, Scientific Advisory Committee Member  
18 Ashaki McNeil, Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services  
19 Richard P. Meyers, Scientific Advisory Committee Member, *Vice Chair*  
20 Shayne Wyatt, Designee for Director of the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services Denise  
21 Toney, PhD  
22 Delegate Vivian Watts, Designee for Delegate Patrick Hope, Chair of the House Courts of  
23 Justice  
24

25 **Board Member Present Virtually**

26 Senator Russet Perry, Designee for Senator Scott Surovell, Chair of the Senate Courts of Justice  
27

28 **Legal Counsel for the Forensic Science Board**

29 Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General  
30

31 **Board Member Absent**

32 Eric Olsen, Commonwealth's Attorney, Stafford County  
33

34 **DFS Staff Members Present**

35 Elizabeth Ballard, Forensic Biology Program Manager  
36 David A. Barron, PhD, Deputy Director  
37 Donna Carter, Director of Finance and Administration  
38 Heather Ford, Sr. Legal Assistant  
39 James Hutchings, PhD, Toxicology Program Manager  
40 Linda C. Jackson, Director  
41 Amy Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director  
42 David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director  
43 Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services  
44 Jessica Norton, Legal Assistant Supervisor  
45 Kevin Patrick, Western Laboratory Director  
46 David Siecker, Communications and Executive Support Specialist

47 Julie Smith, Director of Human Resources  
48 Farryl Sorokin, Forensic Science Board Secretary  
49 Ellen Spain, Forensic Evidence Program Manager  
50 Rebecca Wagner, PhD, Chemistry Research Section Supervisor  
51 Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager  
52

53 **Call to Order**

54 After verifying that a quorum of the Board was present, Richard Meyers, Vice Chair of the  
55 Forensic Scientific Board (“Board” or “FSB”), called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.  
56

57 Chief Deputy Director Amy Jenkins stated for the record that Senator Perry was  
58 participating remotely due to a work commitment pursuant to the Board’s Policy on Participation  
59 of Forensic Science Board Members in Meetings by Electronic Means Pursuant to Virginia Code  
60 § 2.2-3708.3. Senator Perry would be participating by Teams from Loudoun County, Virginia.

61 **Adoption of Agenda**

62 Vice Chair Meyers advised that the first order of business was the adoption of the draft agenda for  
63 the meeting and noted that the agenda was previously shared with the Board members by Ms.  
64 Sorokin. No changes were requested. Vice Chair Meyers then called for a motion to adopt the  
65 agenda. Dr. Maha made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the  
66 Board.  
67

68 **Approval of Draft Minutes of the January 7, 2026 Board Meeting**

69 Vice Chair Meyers asked if there were any proposed changes to the draft minutes of the January  
70 7, 2026 meeting that were previously provided. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve  
71 the minutes. Delegate Watts made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote  
72 of the Board.  
73

74 **DFS Director’s Report**

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

- 77 • The Central Laboratory Capital Project is complete, and all DFS operations have moved to  
78 the new laboratory. OCME is the midst of their move. DFS will maintain the former  
79 laboratory in Richmond until the property is sold. Director Jackson discussed the  
80 mechanisms DFS implemented during the move to document evidence relocation from the  
81 former laboratory to the new facility for chain of custody purposes. Staff are currently  
82 working to get casework back online. A ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled  
83 for June 3, 2026.
- 84 • The Department’s accreditation was renewed by its accrediting body, ANSI National  
85 Accreditation Board (ANAB) in January 2026.
- 86 • The Department’s agency bill was passed during the General Assembly. HB680 removed  
87 the requirement that meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) take place in  
88 the City of Richmond and provided that SAC and FSB members appointed by the Governor  
89 shall serve after the expiration of their term until their successor is appointed. Two  
90 legislative members from the Forensic Science Board, Senator Perry and Delegate Watts,  
91 served as co-patrons of the bill.

- 92 • DFS received the first shipment of the new Breath Alcohol instruments, the Dräger  
93 Alcotest® 9510, on April 17, 2026. DFS Breath Alcohol staff will validate the new  
94 instrument and begin planning for their deployment around the Commonwealth. Officers  
95 will need to be trained and licensed on the new instrument.
- 96 • DFS submitted the *Report of Screening of Destroyed DUI/DUID Samples Tested in*  
97 *Calendar Year 2025* to the Virginia DMV Highway Safety Office as required by  
98 Appropriation language for DFS.
- 99 • DFS continues to transfer firearms cases from the Western Laboratory to the other regional  
100 laboratories. Director Jackson reminded the Board that firearms comparisons had been  
101 halted in the Western Laboratory in April 2025 and subsequently removed from the  
102 Western Laboratory’s scope of accreditation. She provided an update about the ongoing  
103 corrective action that led to those actions being taken.

104  
105 Director Jackson requested Board approval for the acceptance of funds for two grant applications  
106 made to the DMV Highway Safety Office for funding to support the Breath Alcohol and  
107 Toxicology Sections.

108  
109 Vice Chair Meyers asked for a motion to approve the acceptance of funds for the two grant  
110 projects, if awarded. Ms. Howard made the motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous  
111 vote of the Board.

112  
113 **Old Business**

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

118 Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an update on the notification status related to the Mary  
119 Jane Burton cases and informed the Committee that DFS has sent 537 notices to convicted  
120 offenders. DFS will continue to send notifications as the Virginia State Crime Commission  
121 identifies additional convicted persons.

122 Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an update on the 2026 Amendments to 6 VAC 40-30 and  
123 6 VA 40-50 Required Due to Central Laboratory Relocation (Proposed Fast Track) that was  
124 initiated in October. She learned this was not necessary as there is a code provision, Virginia Code  
125 § 30-150, that allows for minor changes to the administrative code to be made by a simpler Forms  
126 process. Based on this information, Chief Deputy Director Jenkins was asked by the Department  
127 of Planning and Budget to withdraw the proposed fast-track action. She requested that the Board  
128 retroactively approve the withdrawal of the Fast Track regulation.

129 Delegate Watts made the motion to retroactively approve the withdrawal of the proposed Fast  
130 Track regulation, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

131  
132 **New Business**

133 Chief Deputy Director Jenkins provided an overview of several pieces of legislation recently  
134 passed in the General Assembly session that could affect DFS. She thanked Delegate Watts and  
135 Senator Perry for serving as co-patrons for House Bill 680. After her presentation, Delegate Watts

136 expressed her concerns in enforcement of nitrous oxide in relation to HB648/SB360 and  
137 encouraged dialogue within the law enforcement community to address enforcement.

138  
139 Chief Deputy Director Jenkins informed the Committee that, with the passage of House Bill 680,  
140 the Forensic Science Bylaws required updates. The Board was provided a summary of the edits,  
141 along with a copy of edit suggestions for review. Chief Deputy Director Jenkins informed Board  
142 members that, pursuant to the Bylaws, these proposed changes will be voted on at the July 2026  
143 meeting.

144 Vice Chair Meyers informed the Board that, in accordance with the Bylaws, the terms of Chair  
145 and Vice Chair are for one year, so they must elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

146 Nominations for Chair of the Forensic Science Board were requested. Ms. Howard nominated  
147 Caroline Juran, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

148 Nominations for Vice Chair of the Forensic Science Board were requested. Ms. Howard nominated  
149 Jae K. Davenport, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

150  
151 **Public Comment**

152 An opportunity for public comment was provided. No members of the public commented.

153  
154 **Confirm Next Meeting Date**

155 Vice Chair Meyers stated that the next meeting will be held on July 15, 2026 and will be virtual.

156  
157 **Adjournment**

158 Vice Chair Meyers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Officer Evans made the motion,  
159 which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m. A  
160 tour of the new Central Laboratory was provided for Board members at the conclusion of the  
161 meeting.

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