

1 **Final Minutes**
2 **Controlled Substances Subcommittee of the**
3 **Scientific Advisory Committee**
4 **July 13, 2020**
5 **Department of Forensic Science, Held Electronically**
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7 **Subcommittee Members Present**
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9 Maureen C. Bottrell
10 Richard P. Meyers, *Chair*
11 Jami St. Clair
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13 **Staff Members Present**
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15 David A. Barron, Ph.D., Deputy Director
16 Katya N. Herndon, Chief Deputy Director
17 Linda C. Jackson, Director
18 Amy C. Jenkins, Department Counsel
19 Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services
20 M. Scott Maye, Northern Laboratory Director
21 Jennifer L. Taylor, Procurement Specialist I, *Secretary*
22 Robyn B. Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager
23 Rebecca Wagner, Ph.D., Research Section Supervisor
24

25 **Call to Order by Subcommittee Chair**
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27 As a result of the state of emergency declared by Governor Northam due to COVID-19, the
28 Controlled Substances Subcommittee conducted the meeting by electronic communication means
29 using the Google Meet platform. The public was permitted to attend and participate via video or
30 audio conference. Directions for public participation were provided on the meeting agenda and
31 posted on Virginia's Town Hall.
32

33 Mr. Meyers called the meeting of the Controlled Substances Subcommittee ("Subcommittee") to
34 order at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Meyers requested Ms. Taylor to call the roll to ensure that a quorum was
35 present. All Subcommittee members were in attendance, and Ms. Taylor advised that a quorum
36 was present.
37

38 **Adoption of Agenda**
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40 Mr. Meyers advised that the first order of business was the adoption of the draft agenda for the
41 meeting. Mr. Meyers noted that everyone should have received a copy in advance and asked for a
42 motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Bottrell made a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded
43 by Ms. St. Clair. A roll-call vote was taken, and the Subcommittee members voted as follows:
44

45 Ms. Bottrell – Yes
46 Mr. Meyers – Yes

47 Ms. St. Clair – Yes

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49 **Discussion of Validations**

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51 In advance of the meeting, the members of the Subcommittee were provided copies of validation
52 documentation related to the following four methods, which address the differentiation of hemp
53 and marijuana and sample preparation experiments pertaining to cannabinoid quantitation:

54

- 55 • Cannabis 4-Aminophenol Chemical Test Method Validation – The validation summary for
56 the 4-aminophenol (4-AP) chemical test to evaluate cannabis plant material.
- 57 • Semi-Quantitative Analysis of Total Δ^9 -Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) using Gas
58 Chromatography-Flame Ionization Detection (GC-FID) Method Validation – The validation
59 summary for the semi-quantitative GC-FID analysis of THC in plant material using a THC
60 standard threshold.
- 61 • Semi-Quantitative Analysis of Total THC in Alternative Matrices using GC-FID Validation
62 Plan – The validation plan for the validation of alternative matrices using the previously
63 validated GC-FID semi-quantitative method.
- 64 • Cannabis Plant Material Drying and Decarboxylation Study Plan – This plan is intended to
65 assess cannabis plant material drying procedures and the decarboxylation of
66 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA) to THC for the quantitative analysis total THC content.

67

68 Dr. Wagner provided an overview of each validation. The Subcommittee members provided
69 comments and asked questions about the validations, which Dr. Wagner and Ms. Weimer
70 answered. Ms. Bottrell made a motion that the review of the four validations be closed, which was
71 seconded by Ms. St. Clair. A roll-call vote was taken, and the Subcommittee members voted as
72 follows:

73

74 Ms. Bottrell – Yes

75 Mr. Meyers – Yes

76 Ms. St. Clair – Yes

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78 **Discussion of Methods**

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80 Dr. Wagner provided the Subcommittee with an overview of the following three methods in
81 development:

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- 83 • Quantitative analysis of THC, THCA, and cannabidiol (CBD), using high performance liquid
84 chromatography (HPLC) – This method is intended for the quantitative analysis of
85 cannabinoids in plant material samples to differentiate between hemp and marijuana.
- 86 • Quantitative analysis of THC, THCA, and CBD, using GC-FID – This method is intended for
87 the quantitative analysis of cannabinoids in plant material samples to differentiate between
88 hemp and marijuana.
- 89 • Confirmation of THCA using tandem mass spectrometry – This method is intended to confirm
90 THCA in plant material samples that was previously quantitatively identified using HPLC.

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92 The Subcommittee members provided comments and asked questions about the methods in
93 development, which Dr. Wagner answered. Ms. Bottrell made a motion that the review of the three
94 methods in development be closed, which was seconded by Ms. St. Clair. A roll-call vote was
95 taken, and the Subcommittee members voted as follows:

96
97 Ms. Bottrell – Yes
98 Mr. Meyers – Yes
99 Ms. St. Clair – Yes

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101 **Public Comment**

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103 Mr. Meyers inquired whether any member of the public would like to provide any comments. No
104 member of the public was in attendance.

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106 **Adjournment**

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108 Ms. Bottrell moved that the meeting of the Subcommittee be adjourned, which was seconded by
109 Ms. St. Clair. A roll-call vote was taken, and the Subcommittee members voted as follows:

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111 Ms. Bottrell – Yes
112 Mr. Meyers – Yes
113 Ms. St. Clair – Yes

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115 The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.