



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
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CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

THOMAS A. TURCO, III
Secretary

Date: January 17, 2020 10am-2pm

Place: The McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place, 21st floor
Conference Room 2
Boston, MA 02108

Members in Attendance:

Chairwoman Kerry Collins (Undersecretary for Forensic Science)
Sabra Botch-Jones (Forensic Science Expertise)
Dr. Robin Cotton (Forensic Laboratory Management 1)
Lucy A. Davis (Clinical Quality Management Expertise)
Judge Nancy Gertner (New England Innocence Project)
Clifford Goodband (Expertise in Statistics 2)
Lisa Kavanaugh, Esq. (MA Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers)
Adrienne Lynch, Esq. (MA District Attorneys Association)
Dr. Ann Marie Mires (Academia, Research Involving Forensic Science)
Professor Timothy Palmbach (Forensic Laboratory Management 2)
Gina Papagiorgakis (Expertise in Statistics 1)

Members Not in Attendance:

Vacant seat (Cognitive Bias Expertise)
Anne Goldbach, Esq. (Committee for Public Counsel Services)
Nancy Rothstein (Nominee from Attorney General's Office)

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:08AM. A quorum was present.

1. Minutes approval

- a. The December meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Set future meetings

- a. Future meetings (10am-2pm unless otherwise specified): Wednesday March 4th, Wednesday May 13th, Friday June 19th, Monday August 3rd, Thursday October 8th and Thursday December 3rd.

3. Review statute requirements

- a. Members discussed the establishment of policies in the event the Board receives a complaint pursuant to sections (d) and (e).
- b. The Board discussed the creation of working groups.
 - i. Board members will look at each requirement outlined in the FSOB and the 97B statutes. The Board will pair up to have smaller discussions and gather information on behalf of the rest of the Board.

4. Set agenda for the year

- a. Board members emphasized digital forensics and fingerprint comparisons given that a large majority of the towns that responded to the 2019 survey perform these analyses and may use the results for testimony.
- b. The Board will start auditing the Springfield Police Crime Lab. The Boston Police Crime Lab will be audited in May 2020.

5. Create survey to inquire of forensic services

- a. The Board created a comprehensive preliminary Survey Monkey survey to issue to labs.
- b. Springfield Police Crime Lab to receive the survey on January 21st with a cover letter.
- c. The survey issued to the Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab in 2019 will be used during the auditing process. This survey will need to be modified depending on a lab's accreditation status.

6. Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting

- a. Media inquiries should be sent to EOPSS.

7. Public comment

- a. No public comment.

8. Action Items

a. Ongoing:

- i. EOPSS to make the Board aware of any pending legislations that affect forensics.
- ii. Board members will focus on gathering information about forensic services offered in the Commonwealth while auditing the Springfield Police Crime Lab and the Boston Police Crime Lab.

b. Information:

- i. EOPSS to send “ISO Standards Addressing Issues of Bias” article authored by former member, Itiel Dror, to the Board.
- ii. EOPSS to send the Mass Lawyers Weekly FSOB-related article to the Board.
- iii. EOPSS to send the report issued by the Department of Public Health (regarding lab scandal) to the Board.
- iv. EOPSS to provide Board with the Springfield Police Crime Lab’s survey results by February 10th.

c. Other:

- i. Board members to send EOPSS their preferred section/topic for the working groups.
- ii. Board members to look at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) boards to see if the boards can present best practices on fingerprint analyses to the FSOB.
- iii. Board members discussed the creation of a potential FSOB website. As of now, information is currently published on Mass.gov and can be discovered using the search bar. EOPSS to gather more information on a Mass.gov FSOB page.