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Secretary

Meeting Minutes
Forensic Science Oversight Board

Date: December 12, 2019 10am-4pm

Place: The McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place, 21st floor
Conference Room 3
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)
Anne Goldbach, Esq. (Committee for Public Counsel Services)
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:

Dr. Itiel Dror (Cognitive Bias Expertise)-resigned
Judge Nancy Gertner (New England Innocence Project)
Nancy Rothstein (Nominee from Attorney General's Office)

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

1. Minutes approval

- a. The November meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Finalize FSOB Report*

- a. The Board reviewed, made changes and finalized the FSOB report. The Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab (MSPCL) was present and the Board directed questions to lab personnel for clarity.
 - i. The *General Recommendations* section of the report was removed because recommendations were provided throughout the document.
 - ii. Board members discussed the general need for funding:
 - 1. Board members discussed whether the MSPCL should have a separate budget from the Massachusetts State Police (MSP). The Board discussed the structure of the lab as it is currently under the MSP and the fact that the MSPCL has its own separate operating budget that is influenced by its parent agency's competing budget.
- b. The Board noted that the completion of the entire mandate was not feasible within the 6-month deadline that was given because the scope is extensive.
- c. A motion (S. Botch-Jones) to approve and file the FSOB report was made, seconded (A. Lynch) and approved unanimously.

3. Pick future dates and topics

- a. The January 17th meeting was extended to 2 pm.
- b. The Board stated that they would benefit from longer hours and can meet every other month or meet every month for shorter meetings.

- c. The Board briefly discussed their next steps. C. Goodband noted that the Board has to decide if they want to look at latent prints, crime scene processing and digital forensics given the responses of the survey. The Board also recognized the need to figure out the next forensic service provider they want to focus on and discussed potentially inviting the provider to a meeting or send out a questionnaire to gather information. The Board also discussed reissuing the survey that was sent in July 2019 to municipal police chiefs.
- d. The Board revisited the idea of forming subcommittees to expedite auditing other labs.

4. Public comment

- a. No public comment.
- b. A motion (G. Papagiorgakis) to adjourn was made, seconded (L. Kavanaugh) and approved unanimously.

5. Action Items

- a. The Board will be revisiting the statute in the January meeting and will decide on their next steps moving forward.
- b. The survey will be reissued to police departments in the near future.

*The 2019 FSOB report was filed on 12/16/2019.