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| Seal2  **CHARLES D. BAKER**  Governor  **KARYN E. POLITO**  Lt. Governor | The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  One Ashburton Place, Room 2133  Boston, Massachusetts 02108  Tel: (617) 727-7775  TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618  Fax: (617) 727-4764  [www.mass.gov/eops](http://www.mass.gov/eops) | **TERRENCE REIDY**  Secretary |

**Forensic Science Oversight Board (FSOB)**

Meeting Minutes

**Scheduled**: February 11, 2022 10:00am-2:00pm,Microsoft Teams

**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:**

Judge Nancy Gertner (New England Innocence Project)

Nancy Rothstein (Nominee from Attorney General’s Office)

Vacant seat (Cognitive Bias Expertise)

* 1. **Minutes Approval**
     1. Approved.
  2. **Pending Legislation**
     1. EOPSS provided an update on the pending bills discussed in previous meetings.
        1. The following bills went to study:
           1. S.1565, An Act relative to the membership of the forensic science oversight board;
           2. H.2472, An Act relative to the expansion of the state DNA database; and
           3. H.4255, An Act implementing the recommendations of the Special Commission on Operating under the Influence and Impaired Driving.

A. Goldbach informed the board that the doctors at Mass General did a [study](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41386-021-01259-0) on Drug Recognition Experts and asked that the study be circulated to the board and provided to the legislature.

* + - 1. Bill S.1595, An Act permitting familial searching and partial DNA matches in investigating certain unsolved crimes, received an extension.
         1. A. Mires informed the board that the bill seems to be moving favorably but Senator Brownsberger expressed that there are science-related questions. A. Mires suggested asking Senator Gobi to invite committee members to the next FSOB meeting to ask the science-related questions.
         2. L. Kavanaugh expressed that she would like to make sure the legislature reviewed both reports that were sent to them (the Familial DNA Searching [Report](https://www.mass.gov/doc/forensic-science-oversight-board-familial-dna-searching-report-march-24-2021/download) and the Investigation of the Bristol County District Attorney’s Office DNA Database Subsection (d) [Report](https://www.mass.gov/doc/forensic-science-oversight-boards-investigation-of-the-bristol-county-district-attorneys-office-dna-database-subsection-d-report-october-2021/download)) and that the language that the FSOB suggested is included.
         3. A discussion about S.1595 will be added to the March agenda if legislators are able to attend.
      2. Bill H.2524, An Act relative to missing persons, reported out favorably.
  1. **Spring Symposium**
     1. A working group (L. Davis, N. Gertner, R. Cotton, L. Kavanaugh and A. Mires) will plan the Spring Symposium.
     2. The symposium will be virtual and is scheduled for May 13th.
        1. L. Kavanaugh expressed that the benefit of hosting a symposium at Harvard University is that it is a neutral location resulting in more participation from diverse stakeholders.
     3. A. Mires suggested the FSOB ask stakeholders what they want or would like to see from a FSOB -hosted symposium.
     4. S. Botch-Jones expressed that she would like to engage the Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory (MSP Crime Lab) and hear about their perception and hopes for the FSOB. She added that Lynn Schneeweis from the MSP Crime Lab presented on the FSOB from the laboratory’s perspective at the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, Inc. (NEAFS) 2021 annual meeting.
     5. L. Kavanaugh agreed with the above suggestions and added that a panel of stakeholders, including outside stakeholders, would be beneficial.
  2. **Subsection Updates**
     1. Subsection (e) report was published on mass.gov and disseminated to all police chiefs, the MSP Crime Lab and the Boston Police Department Crime Laboratory (BPD Crime Lab).
     2. Audits:
        1. BPD Crime Lab Audit (C. Goodband, S. Botch-Jones, G. Papagiorgakis, and L. Davis)
           1. The working group sent a request for information and documentation. The BPD will have an opportunity to present their response or submit a written response.
        2. Springfield Police Department Crime Laboratory Audit (T. Palmbach and R. Cotton).
           1. The unit’s Sgt. McCoy provided a list of changes that the department implemented (i.e. benchmark notes and policies and procedures, staffing).
           2. The working group will review the documents to determine if a follow-up visit in March will be appropriate.
        3. L. Davis informed the board that the FBI has a digital evidence laboratory in Massachusetts. A. Goldbach added that the MSP reassigned their digital evidence laboratory to the homeland security unit. The Attorney General’s Office also has a digital evidence laboratory. Additionally, the U.S. Secret Service in Boston has a digital evidence laboratory.
           1. Federal laboratories are out of the FSOB’s purview.
           2. The Attorney General’s Digital Evidence Laboratory hosts an annual [National Cyber Crime Conference](https://web.cvent.com/event/6e64e4c2-c0dd-42cc-a8b0-b7686f94ebbb/summary?rt=cdgAa7eNVkq0aBCkwocXlg).
           3. A discussion regarding the FSOB’s oversight of digital evidence will be added to a future meeting agenda.
  3. **Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated Within 48 Hours of the Meeting**
     1. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences’ annual [conference](https://www.aafs.org/annual-conference) will be hybrid. Chairwoman Collins encouraged those attending the meeting to share any information or documents obtained at the conference.
        1. L. Davis informed the FSOB that it is possible to participate in workshops without registering for the entire conference. She shared an overview of the workshops:
        2. L. Davis encouraged board members and meeting attendees to sign up for [Session W9: Forensic Science Standards Development and Implementation … You Want Me to](https://www.aafs.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Monday%20Workshops-1-26.pdf)
        3. [Do What?](https://www.aafs.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Monday%20Workshops-1-26.pdf) which will introduce conference attendees to forensic science standards.
     2. L. Kavanaugh informed the FSOB that the Hair Microscopy Project is doing well in garnering participation from the District Attorney’s Office.
     3. A. Mires informed the board that the MSP, in partnership with the Department of Correction and District Attorney’s Offices, is distributing 7000 decks of playing cards on cold unresolved homicide and missing persons cases to state prisons to encourage inmates to provide information about the cases.
        1. L. Kavanaugh shared an [article](https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2022/02/11/cod-cod-cold-cases-nancy-osborn-robert-martin-herbert-dixon-murders-ma-state-police-cards/6735264001/) regarding the initiative.
        2. A. Lynch informed the board that other states have taken a similar approach to help move cases forward. She added that she believes that victims’ families have to grant permission for a case to be added to a deck.
     4. Lis Pimentel, board advisor, announced that a new advisor will be assigned to the board.
  4. **Public Comments**
     1. No public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.