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Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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Forensic Science Oversight Board (FSOB) Meeting
Friday, February 14, 2025
Via Microsoft Teams

I. Roll Call

Undersecretary Collins brought the meeting to order at 10:01am. Karen Anderson from WCVB noted that the meeting was being recorded.

Forensic Science Oversight Board - Attendance		
Name	Present	Absent
Undersecretary Kerry Collins, Chair	X	
Sabra Jones, PhD	X	
Dr. Robin Cotton	X	
Richard Lempert, PhD	X	
Gina Papagiorgakis		X
Dr. Ann Marie Mires		X
Clifford Goodband	X	
Professor Timothy Palmbach	X	
Lucy Davis	X	
Adrienne Lynch, Esq.	X	
AAG Gabriel Thornton	X	
Lisa Kavanaugh, Esq.	X	
Justice Nancy Gertner*	X	
*Left at 11:11am		

II. BPDCL Audit Report Review and Vote

The board reviewed the report and agreed on the three recommendations as drafted with the addition of a fourth specific to the removal of the City of Boston's residency requirement for non-sworn laboratory personnel. Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn was then provided an opportunity to address the board where he noted that concerns remain over the laboratory's budget as the Boston City Council allocated \$1 million to the Boston Police Department but it was not clear if those funds were utilized for the crime laboratory. Additionally, the Councilor noted that he formally requested a residency waiver for the Laboratory

Director position along with a salary increase and competitive benefits package. Lastly, he suggested the possibility of using an outside consultant to evaluate the needs of the laboratory.

Undersecretary Collins entertained a motion to approve the report with the suggested edits. Sabra Jones entered the motion seconded by Lucy Davis. The board approved the report unanimously.

BPDCL Audit Report - Vote		
Name	Yes	No
Undersecretary Kerry Collins, Chair	N/A	N/A
Sabra Jones, PhD	X	
Dr. Robin Cotton	X	
Richard Lempert, PhD	X	
Gina Papagiorgakis	Absent	Absent
Dr. Ann Marie Mires	Absent	Absent
Clifford Goodband	X	
Professor Timothy Palmbach	X	
Lucy Davis	X	
Adrienne Lynch, Esq.	X	
AAG Gabriel Thornton	X	
Lisa Kavanaugh, Esq.	X	
Justice Nancy Gertner	X	

III. T. Roy Complaint; Essex Complaint (Update)

T. Roy Complaint

The board was provided with an overview of the Roy complaint by Lisa Kavanaugh. Upon completion of the overview, discussion focused on the need for educational materials responsive to the complaint, possibly provided through the Social Law Library. The board noted that the training should be targeted toward attorneys and justices, addressing questions of proper testimony in absence of scientific data. One potential question is whether analysts should be discouraged from referencing their own experiences as the basis of answering questions under these circumstances. The board agreed to continue discussion on the Roy complaint during future meetings, possibly drafting guidance incorporating standards and recommendations from the NIST report, Texas FSOB report, and the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) guidance. Additionally, the board indicated an interest in having subject matter experts from OSAC and Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) present to the board to provide best practices relative to testimony in absence of scientific data.

For future meetings, the board highlighted the OSAC standards for discussion along with an interest in contacting Lynn Garcia and Dr. Kobal for possible presentations to the board specific to this topic.

Essex Complaint

The board was informed that work on the Essex Complaint is still preliminary and a comprehensive review with recommendations is expected to be ready for the next scheduled meeting.

IV. Open Meeting Law Discussion

Undersecretary Collins provided an overview to the board on the requirements for board meeting minutes pursuant to MGL c. 30A, s. 22. The board agreed that meeting minutes should utilize summaries of board discussions to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the minutes. Further, the board agreed to revise the pending draft meeting minutes to reflect this change in format to then be voted on during the next scheduled board meeting.

V. Subsection Updates

Undersecretary Collins proposed utilizing a designated “point person” for each subsection assignment that serves as the primary contact to provide updates to the board. Board members are then free to assist the point person as their schedules allow with the understanding that communications shall be kept below a quorum of the board. Future subsection assignments were identified by the board which included discussions over securing a budget and personnel for the board such as a board paralegal. Additionally, the board discussed the possibility of providing more training and educational sessions under Subsection (f), likely through the Social Law Library.

VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated Within 48 Hours

Not applicable as nothing was raised by the board.

VII. Next Meeting Dates

The board agreed to continue holding meetings monthly but shorten the scheduled meeting time to three hours. The board then discussed possible topics for upcoming meetings which included discussions on possible federal funding impacts, developing a formal audit process for accredited and non-accredited laboratories, identifying resources for the board, and updates to the board’s website. Lastly, the members expressed an interest in focusing on presentations from outside stakeholders, specifically the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science and Forensic Science Standards Board.

VIII. Public Comment

No further comments were submitted.

IX. September, November, and January Meeting Minutes

The approval for the draft meeting minutes was tabled to the next scheduled meeting to make the necessary edits and review pursuant to the discussion held in Section IV.

X. Adjourn

Undersecretary Collins entertained a motion to adjourn with all present in support. The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.