



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

MEETING AGENDA

January 23, 2015

9:00 AM

Omni Austin Southpark
4140 Governor's Row
Austin, Texas 78744
(512) 448-2222

The Commission may meet in closed session on any item listed below, if authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551. During this meeting, the Commission may consider and take action on the following items. The Commission may have a morning break, a lunch break, and an afternoon break if necessary:

1. Introduction of Dr. Sheree Hughes-Stamm, newly appointed Commissioner from Sam Houston State University. (Di Maio)
2. Review and adopt minutes from October 7, 2014 quarterly meeting. (Di Maio)
3. Office administrative update (FY2015 budget update (including SHSU explanation of fringe benefits); developments in data management; copier upgrade; hiring administrative staff; publication of annual report). (Garcia/Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider recommendations from complaint screening committee concerning pending complaints and laboratory self-disclosures. (Eisenberg)
5. Update on arson case review and implementation of recommendations. (Connealy/Vilbas)
6. Collin County Fire & Arson Investigation Association – Fire Death Investigations/Post Blast: “Positive Identification of Burned Remains: Resources for Investigators” – program feedback and resources necessary for 2015 program. (Seddig (CCF&AIA President))
7. Update from Hair Microscopy Panel: (Garcia/Vilbas//Martinez/Lind/Valadez)
 1. Update from hair microscopy review team meeting on November 21, 2014;
 2. Discussion of proposed revision to flow chart review process; and
 3. Appointment of Dr. Eisenberg as Chairman of the hair microscopy panel.
8. Update on Texas Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) Houston regional crime laboratory self-disclosure #12-06, including latest re-testing results from DPS. (Garcia)

9. Update from Houston Forensic Science Center (Toxicology) #14-13 investigative panel, including reviewing, editing and approving the final investigative report. (Alpert, Peerwani)
10. Update from Blazek (SWIFS – Firearms/Tool Marks) #14-08 investigative panel. (Di Maio)
11. Update from IFL (Firearms/Tool Marks) #14-07 investigative panel. (Mozayani)
12. Update from Bell County (Digital Video Evidence) #14-1 investigative panel. (Barnard)
13. Update from forensic development committee: (Garcia)
 - a. Status of Blackboard-based forensic training program in collaboration with New York Office of Forensic Services (including possibility of funding for course design);
 - b. Status of scenario-based ethics training program;
 - c. Development of Michael Morton/*Brady* training project with TCJIU;
 - d. Need for root cause analysis training as addition to online course offering;
 - e. Update on Foresight support for Texas laboratories;
 - f. Upcoming AAFS meeting in Orlando;
 - g. Upcoming ASCLD meeting in Washington;
 - h. Election of new Forensic Development Committee member and Committee Chair;
and
 - i. TACLD Hair/Fiber training funding.
14. Discussion of certification/licensure initiative and legislative developments regarding same. (Garcia/Gibbens)
15. Discussion of other potential legislative issues on horizon impacting the Commission, including “Office of Forensic Writs” bill and possible change to Commission’s administrative attachment. (Garcia)
16. Development of guidance for judges and lawyers on forensic discovery issues in collaboration with Judge Hervey. (Alpert/Johnson)
17. Report from Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors Association President Bill Gibbens on the organization’s January 22, 2015 meeting. (Gibbens)
18. Elect new Vice Chair for the Texas Forensic Science Commission. (Di Maio)
19. Review and fill any vacancies on Commission committees and investigative panels. (Di Maio)
20. Report from National Commission on Forensic Science October Meeting in Washington, DC (Di Maio).
21. Report from meeting of Scientific Area Committees in Norman, Oklahoma (Garcia).
22. Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting. (Di Maio)
23. Schedule and location of future meetings. (Di Maio)
24. Hear public comment. (Di Maio)

25. Adjourn.

To increase public access to meetings, the Commission will endeavor to live-stream all quarterly meetings on its website at www.fsc.state.tx.us. However, the Commission's decision to live-stream any particular meeting should not be interpreted as a guarantee that all meetings will be live-streamed. The Commission's ability to live-stream depends on budgetary constraints and logistical considerations at any given meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Coordinator, Leigh Heidenreich, at (512) 936-0770 or leigh@fsc.texas.gov.