



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

MEETING AGENDA

April 10, 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. Review and adopt minutes from January 23, 2015 quarterly meeting and January 23, 2015 complaint screening committee meeting. (Di Maio)
2. Office administrative update (FY2015 budget update; DIR overcharges and reimbursement; hiring administrative staff). (Garcia/Tomlin)
3. Discuss and consider recommendations from complaint screening committee concerning pending complaints and laboratory self-disclosures. (Eisenberg)
4. Update on arson case review and implementation of recommendations. (Connealy/Vilbas)
5. Informational presentation on Texas Breath Alcohol Testing Program. (Cowan).
6. Collin County Fire & Arson Investigation Association – Fire Death Investigations/Post Blast: “Positive Identification of Burned Remains: Resources for Investigators” – update on proposal reviewed and funding of same. (Di Maio/Peerwani)
7. Update from DPS – El Paso Disclosure #14-21 (Controlled Substance), including follow-up documents requested by Commissioners at the last quarterly meeting. (Garcia)
8. Update from Hair Microscopy Panel, including update from the groups’ March 27, 2015 meeting at DPS headquarters in Austin. (Garcia/Vilbas//Martinez/Lind/Valadez/Roady/Chin)
9. Update on Texas Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) Houston regional crime laboratory self-disclosure #12-06, including latest re-testing results from DPS. (Garcia)

10. Update on objection letter received from Houston Forensic Science Center (Toxicology) #14-13 and discussion of policy regarding disclosure of information to accrediting and investigative bodies. (Alpert)
11. Update from Blazek (SWIFS – Firearms/Tool Marks) #14-08 investigative panel. (Di Maio)
12. Update from IFL (Firearms/Tool Marks) #14-07 investigative panel. (Mozayani)
13. Update from Bell County (Digital Video Evidence) #14-1 investigative panel, including discussion of adding Commissioner Alpert to investigative panel. (Barnard)
14. 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. Status of root cause analysis training as addition to online course offering;
 - e. Update on Foresight support; and
 - f. Update on Hair/Fiber training by Skip Palenik.
15. Discussion of certification/licensure initiative and legislative developments regarding same. (Garcia/Gibbens)
16. Discussion of other potential legislative issues including HB-3312 (blood alcohol exemption for defense) and SB-3079 (adding forensic writs to Office of Capital Writs). (Garcia)
17. Release of guidance for judges and lawyers on forensic discovery issues in collaboration with Judge Hervey. (Alpert)
18. Report from National Commission on Forensic Science January Meeting in Washington, DC (Di Maio).
19. Report from meeting of Scientific Area Committees. (Garcia).
20. Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting. (Di Maio)
21. Schedule and location of future meetings. (Di Maio)
22. Hear public comment. (Di Maio)
23. Adjourn.

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