

**Texas Forensic Science Commission
Minutes from August 18, 2017 Quarterly Meeting in Austin, Texas**

The Texas Forensic Science Commission met at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 18, 2017 at the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Room 170, Austin, Texas 78701

Members of the Commission were present as follows:

Members Present: Barnard, Budowle, Daniel, Downing, Drake, Hughes-Stamm, Johnson, Parsons

Members Absent: Kerrigan

Staff Present: Lynn Garcia, General Counsel
Leigh Savage, Associate General Counsel
Kathryn Adams, Commission Coordinator

Review and adopt minutes from May 26, 2017 Forensic Science Commission Quarterly meeting.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Johnson moved to adopt the minutes from the May 26, 2017 quarterly meeting. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Office administrative update (FY 2017 budget close; adoption of FY 2018 budget; discussion of transition from Sam Houston State University to the Office of Court Administration including introduction of David Slayton to Commissioners; change to content management software required for the FSC Licensing Program).

Garcia provided details concerning the FSC's administrative move from Sam Houston State University to the Office of Court Administration ("OCA"). She explained some procedural changes and the reclassification of FSC staff job titles. Garcia explained the FSC is paying the OCA an administrative fee (approximately \$30K) for its support of the Commission's human resource, information technology, budgeting, and purchasing functions.

Members reviewed the current budget status report, and Garcia reviewed some of the items the Commission still has outstanding this fiscal year. Staff plans to have an FY17 budget closing report at the Commission's next quarterly meeting. Members also reviewed a proposed Commission budget for FY18.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Johnson moved adopt the proposed FY18 budget. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

David Slayton, Executive Director of the OCA, introduced himself to Commissioners and briefly discussed the status of the Commission's administrative attachment and move to OCA.

Discuss and consider pending complaints and laboratory self-disclosures as well as new complaints and self-disclosures received through August 4, 2017.

Disclosures Pending from May 26, 2017

1. No. 17.26; DPS El Paso (DNA Evidence Handling): a self-disclosure by DPS El Paso describing an incident in its DNA section where an analyst was unable to locate an envelope containing three cuttings for DNA testing which were believed to have been returned to the evidence section.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to take no further action on the disclosure based on the information provided by the lab, including the explanation of the nonconformance. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Disclosures Received as of August 4, 2017

2. No. 17.38; Jefferson Co. Regional Crime Lab (Seized Drugs): This is a self-disclosure by the Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory describing an issue in its drug chemistry section wherein the value for the balance resolution of the high capacity floor balance was entered incorrectly as .02 instead of .01 on the uncertainty calculation. The value was used in all subsequent uncertainty calculations until 1/24/17, which affected the combined rounded and expanded uncertainty amount for pounds only, resulting in incorrect values reported in 34 cases from 4/23/13-1/24/17, and one additional case from 1/24/17-5/31/17, when the error was identified.

Drake explained how this error could have occurred in the laboratory.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to take no further action on the disclosure based on the information provided by the lab, including the explanation in the lab's corrective action and appropriate notification to prosecutors. Johnson seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

3. No. 17.44; DPS Tyler (Seized Drugs): This is a self-disclosure by DPS Tyler describing an incident in which a technician receiving four items of evidence from the Canton, Texas Highway Patrol Office and treated the request as if all items had been submitted for destruction only when the officer had actually requested analysis be performed on two of the items. All four items were destroyed with no analysis performed.

Johnson recused himself from the discussion and vote on this case.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to take no further action on the disclosure based on the information provided by the lab and to seek an opinion from a statistics expert (Dr. Cliff Spiegelman at Texas A&M) on the number of cases that should be reviewed to achieve a certain confidence interval. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

- No. 17.45; DPS Tyler (Seized Drugs/LIMS): This is a self-disclosure by DPS Tyler describing an incident wherein a controlled substance report was issued on May 17, 2017 as “Contains Methamphetamine” when test results and supporting documentation indicated the substance to be cocaine. The error was not caught during technical review.

Johnson recused himself from the discussion and vote on this case.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to take no further action on the disclosure based on the information provided by the lab, including the root cause analysis and retroactive case review and to seek an opinion from a statistics expert on the number of cases that should be reviewed to achieve a certain confidence interval. Downing seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Members also requested the lab provide a copy of the screenshot of the LIMS system so that Commissioners can see exactly what the examiner was looking at when the mistake was made. The lab plans to provide this information before the Commission meets again and members will review it at their next quarterly meeting.

- No. 17.47; Houston Forensic Science Center (Toxicology): This is a self-disclosure by the Houston Forensic Science Center describing a deviation from SOP in its Toxicology Section wherein d/l-methamphetamine was used in ELISA blood and urine validations instead of pure d-methamphetamine.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to take no further action on the disclosure based on the information provided by the lab, including the corrective action and root cause analysis by the lab and the fact that no case results were adversely affected by the oversight. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

- No. 17.48; Houston Forensic Science Center (DNA Evidence Handling): This is a self-disclosure by the Houston Forensic Science Center describing an incident involving the discovery of biological evidence among items removed from a former employee’s office.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to take no further action on the disclosure because the lab has taken the appropriate steps for disclosure and legal disclosure issues related to the discovery of evidence in any particular case are the responsibility of the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

- No. 17.50; Houston Forensic Science Center (CODIS): This is a self-disclosure by the Houston Forensic Science Center describing an incident in its Forensic Biology section where local CODIS (LDIS) case-to-case hits occurred and no notification letter was generated as required by the National DNA Index System (NDIS) and HFSC policy until an investigator inquired as to why the lab did not get a hit for two cases.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to take no further action on the disclosure based on the information provided by the lab, including the root cause analysis performed and*

appropriate corrective action taken. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.

Complaints Pending from May 26, 2017

8. No. 16.54; Gulley, Britney (SWIFS; Firearms/Toolmarks): This is a complaint by inmate Britney Gulley alleging a Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (“SWIFS”) firearms analyst misidentified a firearm and bullets that led to her wrongful conviction for murder.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to dismiss the complaint because the issues are being addressed by the Dallas County DA’s Office and Dallas County Public Defender’s Office. The offices are working on an agreement for re-testing of the evidence by SWIFS. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

9. No. 17.04; Gefrides, Lisa (Houston Forensic Science Center; Biology/DNA): This is a complaint by forensic biology consultant Lisa Gefrides alleging the HFSC’s biology section is not adequately identifying and controlling errors during testing of biological evidence.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Hughes-Stamm moved to table the complaint pending review of the voluminous information provided by the complainant and the laboratory. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

10. No. 17.05; IPOT (DPS Austin/Orchid Cellmark; DNA/CODIS): This is a complaint by the Innocence Project of Texas alleging the DPS Austin CODIS Laboratory failed to comply with National DNA Index System (“NDIS”) procedures when uploading a DNA search profile into the Combined DNA Index System (“CODIS”) such that one of the obligate alleles would have excluded the particular defendant being compared had the profile been properly uploaded.

Budowle explained his reinterpretation of the DNA mixture data in this case. Ultimately, the reinterpretation would not have changed the conclusion that Mr. Millage was included as a possible contributor. Ware inquired about the exclusion of the other CODIS hit included in the search; Budowle explained the hit was against a forensic profile and the process DPS used to conclude the other hit was an exclusion.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to dismiss the complaint based upon Budowle’s observations and reinterpretation of the key DNA mixture evidence. Downing seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

11. No. 17.13; Hill, Anthony (Max Courtney; Crime Scene Reconstruction): This is a complaint by inmate Anthony D. Hill alleging crime scene reconstructionist Max Courtney gave scientifically insupportable analysis and testimony that led to Hill’s wrongful conviction for capital murder.

Boswell informed the FSC that Mr. Hill had been provided with a form from the Tarrant County Conviction Integrity Unit that must be filled out and returned before his case can be reviewed.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Johnson moved to table the complaint and send the complainant a new Tarrant County Conviction Integrity Unit form accompanied by a letter giving a deadline by which to return the form. Downing seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

12. No. 17.23; Ghant, Travis (Scott & White – Temple Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Alice Lindner; S.A.N.E): This is a complaint by inmate Travis Ghant alleging S.A.N.E. Alice Linder from Scott & White Temple gave scientifically insupportable testimony related to a “V-shaped” tear in the victim’s hymen that led to his wrongful conviction for sexual assault of a child.

Downing reported on her meeting with Dr. Nancy Kellogg, an author of the guidelines on pediatric sexual trauma whose research was cited by nurse Alice Linder in the Ghant trial. Dr. Kellogg stated the nurse provided an accurate interpretation of genital injuries as they were understood at the time. The guidelines she cited were updated in 2016 and the injury would not be interpreted the way it was during the 2004 trial. Specifically, the hymen injury the nurse stated was a “well healed tear to her hymen” is now interpreted as a finding with no expert consensus on interpretation with respect to sexual contact or trauma.

Garcia related the FSC has sent cases to the State Board of Nursing in the past and they have historically taken no action. Downing plans to draft recommendations for SANEs on current standards in this area and will work with staff to provide a proposed version to the Commission.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to dismiss the complaint and refer it to the Innocence Project of Texas. Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

13. No. 17.24; Smithwick, Roy (Bexar Co. Criminal Investigation Lab; Serology and Firearms/Toolmarks): This is a complaint by inmate Roy Louis Smithwick, Jr. alleging Bexar County Criminal Investigation Lab former analysts Ron Dodson and Fred Zain gave false and misleading ballistic and serology testimony that led to his wrongful conviction for murder.

Fallon informed members that the lab has provided all information in its possession to the FSC, and described Bexar Co CIL’s internal investigation of Zain. He stated there are records in several different locations and record-keeping at the lab during the time period Zain was employed there was poor. He personally searched and was unable to locate any more records to those already provided. Garcia suggested contacting Webb County to inquire about additional material.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to dismiss the complaint because Fred Zain’s cases have all been reviewed and vetted, and the FSC believed a “best practices” review would provide no new information to the forensic community. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Complaints Received as of August 4, 2017

14. No. 13.06; Mireles, Gustavo (DPS McAllen; DNA/Blood Spatter): This is a complaint by inmate Gustavo Lopez Mireles and Private Investigator Daryl Parker alleging fundamental flaws in DNA interpretation by DPS as well as flaws in crime scene reconstruction with a particular focus on blood spatter analysis.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to dismiss the complaint based upon the results of his review of the DNA analysis performed in the case. Parsons seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

15. No. 17.34; Radke, Christopher (SWIFS; DNA/Serology): This is a complaint by Jane Caldwell made on behalf of inmate Christopher Radke alleging SWIFS serologist, Kathy Long, was negligent and committed misconduct by providing Tom Bevel (out-of-state bloodstain pattern expert) access to physical evidence in the case for the purpose of performing bloodstain pattern analysis. According to the complaint, Mr. Bevel identified twelve high velocity bloodstains on the evidence (left leg of a pair of pants), and this conclusion contradicted a diagram drawn by former SWIFS analyst John Planz.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to dismiss the complaint because the case was from 1997, and there was nothing prohibiting Ms. Long from allowing the expert access to the evidence. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

16. No. 17.36; Whitlock, Tarrance (SWIFS; GSR): This is a complaint by inmate Tarrance Whitlock alleging SWIFS trace analysts used a “frivolous or false forensic analysis (flameless atomic absorption analysis)” to convict him of aggravated assault of a public servant. The analytical procedure was used to detect gunshot residue.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to dismiss the complaint since there was no inappropriate analytical procedure utilized and flameless atomic absorption analysis was a proper way to detect GSR at the time. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

17. No. 17.46; Tran, Quang (SWIFS; Firearms/Tool Marks): This is a complaint by inmate Quang Tran alleging the firearm/tool mark analysis performed by SWIFS was flawed due to the fact that the work was performed by SWIFS analyst Heather Thomas who misidentified a firearm in a Grimes County case for which the Commission issued an investigative report.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to dismiss the complaint and refer it to the Dallas County DA’s Office and the Dallas County Conviction Integrity Unit for determination as to whether the case merits reanalysis. Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

18. No. 17.49; Isenhower, David Wayne (Harris Co. Sheriff; Blood Spatter) a complaint by inmate David Wayne Isenhower alleging a Harris County Sheriff’s Officer exceeded his

expertise as a crime scene examiner by testifying about blood spatter, bullet trajectory and other issues.

Commissioners discussed dismissal of the complaint due to lack of resources to investigate the discipline of blood spatter beyond the cases currently under investigation. Garcia recommended sending the case to the Harris County Conviction Integrity Unit since many of the allegations in the complaint are outside of the FSC's jurisdiction; Gerald Doyle from the Harris County CIU agreed to review the case.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to dismiss the complaint because the FSC currently lacks the resources to expand its review of blood spatter beyond cases already under investigation, and to refer the case to Gerald Doyle at the Harris County CIU. Drake seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including accreditation non-conformances received since the May 2017 quarterly meeting. Follow up from discussion on rule proposal to add footwear and tire tread comparison to trace evidence sub-disciplines subject to Commission accreditation requirements. Discuss whether to exempt crime scene reconstruction analytical disciplines (including but not limited to blood spatter analysis) from the accreditation requirements.

Members reviewed third quarter accreditation nonconformances received by the Commission. One laboratory, the Corpus Christi Police Department Crime Lab, underwent annual assessment and successfully resolved any cited nonconformances.

Garcia reminded members of the discussion about last meeting about including footwear and tire tread analyses under trace. At the time, Parsons suggested checking with police departments to see if they are performing this analytical work. Garcia contacted DPS and found that law enforcement often collects this evidence but sends it to DPS for analysis.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to add footwear and tire tread comparison to the trace evidence subdisciplines subject to FSC accreditation. Hughes-Stamm seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Garcia advised waiting to discuss blood spatter later in the meeting in conjunction with the Norma Clark case.

Discuss licensing advisory committee program, including adjudication of public comments received since May quarterly meeting. Review, discuss and adopt proposed rules (including changes resulting from comments) for licensing program. Consider TACLD nomination for replacement candidate on Licensing Advisory Committee.

Members reviewed applications/nominations for the available seat on the Commission's Licensing Advisory Committee. Garcia briefly explained statutory requirements for composition of the LAC, and stated they would like to add a trace evidence expert if possible. Daniel expressed concern about the burden of travel put upon someone from out of state. Members reviewed and discussed the resumes of TACLD nominations for the open seat on the Licensing

Advisory Committee. Garcia related candidates had to apply for consideration and were made aware they would need to travel to Texas. Hilbig and commission members discussed advantages of including an out-of-state person on the LAC.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Budowle moved to select Katie White from Microtrace, LLC to fill the Licensing Advisory Committee seat. Hughes-Stamm seconded the motion. The FSC adopted the motion.*

Garcia reviewed and explained the contents of proposed licensing rule changes and associated public comments. Commission staff will respond to each comment received.

Update from investigative panel regarding Harris Co. Institute of Forensic Sciences (Toxicology, Blood Alcohol) #16.48.

Members of the investigative panel (Daniel, Drake and Kerrigan) reported on their meetings and findings since the Commission's last quarterly meeting. The panel will provide a further update at the Commission's next quarterly meeting and plans to propose a final draft report in the investigation.

Update from investigative panel regarding combined Clark (Harris Co. IFS, HPD, Harris Co. Sheriff's Department; GSR, DNA, Blood Spatter) #16-40 case and Bryan (Robert Thorman; Blood Spatter) #16.56 case, including August 1, 2017 panel meeting at Brazos Co. District Attorney's Office as well as addition to complaint regarding serology filed by Bryan's attorney.

Investigative panel members (Johnson, Hughes-Stamm, Parsons) reported on their meetings since the last Commission quarterly meeting. Members plan to have a final report in the Clark matter at the Commission's next quarterly meeting. Members are still reviewing issues related to the Joe Bryan case and plan to report back at the Commission's next quarterly meeting.

Update from investigative panel regarding Houston Forensic Science Center Self-Disclosure (Crime Scene) #17.22.

Members are working on an investigative plan to issue best practice and education recommendations on appropriate crime scene methods and procedures. Members briefly discussed possibly collaboration with Judge Hervey and the Court of Criminal Appeals on training initiatives for crime scene.

Update from investigative panel regarding DPS Garland (Blood Alcohol) #17.28

Members did not discuss this item in any detail other than to state that members have assembled a task group to investigate the issues.

Discussion with ANAB Vice President Pamela Sales regarding issues identified in Austin Police Department DNA Laboratory including accrediting body's response to Commission inquiry.

Garcia provided a synopsis of APD lab's assessments and audits from 2004 to the present. Garcia expressed her concern about how a lab could go through 17 assessments/audits and have no major findings in light of the issues we know now.

Koehler presented a PowerPoint highlighting the major issues found during the May 2016 Commission audit. None of the major findings had been identified during any previous assessment or audit. Pam Sale (ANAB Vice President) was then asked to provide an explanation of ANAB's assessment process and reasons the APD lab's deficiencies were not identified until the Commission audit.

Pamela Sale, Vice President of ANAB, explained ANAB's laboratory assessment/audit procedure and stated the accrediting body had not identified any nonconformities with its own assessment process. She explained this meant no nonconformities relative to ANAB's own policies and procedures, and applicable ISO requirements.

Procedural changes have been made since the Commission's APD report was published. Two major changes about which Sale spoke were: 1) labs now must have a procedure for validation studies, and 2) validation studies must include interpretation.

Sale explained ANAB's assessments are based on samplings. Samples provided may have had no non-conformities. The knowledge of the assessor is also a factor. Garcia asked why a quant-based stochastic threshold was not a "red flag" at APD's 2015 ISO assessment. Sale explained possible reasons as follows: the assessor simply did not see it; the assessor's lab may have been using the same type of stochastic threshold and therefore thought it was adequate; or the assessor recognized his/her lab used a different threshold but did not feel APD's was wrong.

Budowle asked if ANAB intended to make any changes based on items missed at APD. Sale responded that labs would be checked to see if procedures they have in place are appropriate. Budowle asked if ANAB would check to see if validation studies comport with interpretation guidelines.

Roger Kahn, Texas Association of Crime Lab Directors President, commented that he was particularly troubled by APD's statements that analysts could pipette to a quantity beyond the pipette's known tolerance. He felt this illustrated that accreditation is not covering laboratory fundamentals and suggested ANAB disseminate their findings in cases like this whether or not they are required to do so.

Christian Westring, representative from NMS labs, commented the biggest issues of late are suspect-driven CPI/CPE, and inappropriate use of analytical and stochastic thresholds. Old data should be examined.

Tim Sliter, Chief of Physical Evidence at SWIFS, stated the whole process is built upon a fundamental fallacy that any analyst can get qualified as an auditor and getting analysts who are truly qualified to evaluate validation are extremely rare. His validations, for example, are full of statistical data many analysts cannot understand.

Barnard commented that even when all the accreditation rules are followed, outcomes may still be wrong.

Discussion regarding findings of fact, conclusions of law and order by Judge Herbert B. Dixon in United States v. Torney and response regarding same from NMS including consideration of appropriate action under art. 38.01 Tex. Code Crim. Proc.

Budowle recused himself from discussion of this agenda item.

Garcia briefly explained how she became aware of the judge's opinion concerning NMS Labs' work in the *Torney* case. She summarized the judge's rationale for exclusion of NMS's DNA analysis from evidence at the trial. Christian Westring from NMS addressed the FSC's concerns related to the judge's ruling.

Westring believes the issues are a difference in scientific opinion. Westring was asked to explain his rationale for not re-amplifying the sample. Westring denied re-amplification was necessary and defended the laboratory's results. Hughes-Stamm suggested the FSC should form a panel to investigate the matter.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Daniel moved to form a panel in conjunction with ANAB to investigate the issues cited in the Torney opinion. Hughes-Stamm seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Consideration of microbial DNA issues identified by SWIFS with Qiagen Investigator 24-plex kit, response from manufacturer and resolution.

Tim Sliter explained the issues with the Qiagen Investigator kit at SWIFS and how the issues were discovered and eventually resolved to the satisfaction of DNA experts at SWIFS and DPS. A Qiagen representative also spoke and explained remedial adjustments made to the kit in light of the observations made by SWIFS and other laboratories with similar experiences.

Discussion regarding introduction, scope and legal issues regarding Rapid DNA technology in Texas.

Members briefly discussed Rapid DNA technology, including feedback from Dr. Peter Stout on HFSC's experiences and discussion from Brady Mills who recently attended a national meeting on the subject. This will be an ongoing subject for discussion especially as the next legislative session approaches.

Update on statewide & Co.-based defense triage projects for DNA mixture review.

Bob Wicoff, coordinator of the statewide DNA Mixture Review project, provided a brief update on the DNA Mixture Review and reported an influx of cases earlier in 2017 as some of the larger district attorneys' offices sent their notices out to potentially affected parties.

Trudy Strassburger, Deputy Director of the Capital Area Defender Service updated members on the Travis County mixture project. She also reminded that Travis is dealing with concerns regarding DNA testing at the APD laboratory overall. The project has reviewed 400 cases to date and are either closed or at DPS with requests for reinterpretation. To date, no final reports have been received. For the broader APD DNA review, there is about to be a contract with UNTHSC-CHI in place for cases in which DNA was material. Budowle confirmed UNTHSC-CHI is doing the work pro bono.

Dawn Boswell, Chief of the Conviction Integrity Unit at the Tarrant County DA's office, reported on the status of the DNA review for Tarrant County. They have closed 62 cases and have 85 still open.

Discuss sexual assault kit storage issue and receive update from Chief Gay or designee on APD review of quality system for non-DNA sections under contract with the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC).

Chief Gay spoke on behalf of APD and explained the sexual assault kit storage issues. Garcia expressed concern about the lack of contact with the Travis County DA's office on the issue. Garcia suggested speaking with Dawn Boswell from Tarrant County about notification issues and establishing a forensic disclosure policy. APD agreed to contact Tarrant County and discuss a model policy.

Update on Hair Microscopy Panel.

Garcia stated the project is about to wrap up, and provided a recap of the number of cases reviewed, how cases were obtained, and the protocols for selection of cases for notification. A draft report will be prepared for review.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved direct staff to draft a final report. Budowle seconded the motion. The FSC unanimously adopted the motion.*

Update from panel on Commission reporting requirements, including disclosure guidance per statute and possible revisions to rules.

Members did not discuss this agenda item as the committee has not yet met.

Discuss progress on project to standardize sexual assault kits.

Downing reported the Texas A&M School of Nursing was awarded a contract to update sexual assault kit protocols and the contract is currently at the Texas Attorney General's office for approval.

Update from Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors.

Roger Kahn provided comment throughout the agenda as noted on behalf of the Texas Association of Crime Lab Directors.

Report on National Association of Attorneys General Forensic Symposium and NIST International Forensic Science Error Management Symposium.

Garcia reported on her participation on two panels at the NAAG symposium. Garcia did a plenary talk at NIST and received positive input about the forensic work being done in Texas.

Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting.

Staff will circulate a proposed agenda for the Commission's next quarterly meeting.

Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly meetings.

The next quarterly meeting will be on November 3, 2017 at the Omni Southpark Hotel.

Hear public comment.

Public comment was provided throughout the agenda as noted.

Adjourn.