



TEXAS FORENSIC  
SCIENCE COMMISSION

*Justice Through Science*

1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445  
Austin, Texas 78701

**MEETING AGENDA**

**July 21, 2023, at 9:00 AM**

Stephen F. Austin Building  
1700 North Congress Avenue  
Room 170  
Austin, Texas 78701

**During this meeting, the Forensic Science Commission (“Commission”) may consider and possibly take action on the following items. The Commission may take breaks as necessary. The Commission may meet in closed session on any item listed below, as authorized by the Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.**

1. Call meeting to order. Roll call for members. Excuse any absent board members.
2. Review and adopt minutes from April 14, 2023 Commission quarterly meeting.
3. Office administrative update (FY2023 third quarter budget status report; updates from conferences and trainings attended by staff; update on status of launch of database functions, including crime laboratory accreditation status and search functions as well as OSAC Registry implementation). (Garcia/Tomlin)
4. Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from April 14, 2023 quarterly meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through June 30, 2023, as detailed below.

Self-disclosure pending from April 14, 2023:

1. No. 23.07; Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)

Self-disclosures received as of June 30, 2023:

2. No. 23.18; City of Austin Forensic Science Department (Firearms/Toolmarks)
3. No. 23.19; University of North Texas Health Science Center – Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/CODIS)
4. No. 23.24; Houston Forensic Science Center (Seized Drugs)
5. No. 23.25; Department of Public Safety (CODIS)
6. No. 23.26; NMS Labs (Seized Drugs)
7. No. 23.28; Houston Forensic Science Center (Crime Scene Investigation)
8. No. 23.30; Houston Forensic Science Center (Firearms/Toolmarks)
9. No. 23.31; Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office Regional Crime Laboratory (Toxicology)
10. No. 23.33; Bexar County Crime Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA)
11. No. 23.34; Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)

12. No. 23.37; Department of Public Safety – Austin (Seized Drugs; Gunshot Residue)
13. No. 23.39; Department of Public Safety – Houston (Seized Drugs)

Complaint pending from April 14, 2023:

14. No. 23.20; Dues, Miranda (ExperTox; Hair Analysis)

Staff Dismissals

1. No. 23.27; Roy, Tiffany (Houston Forensic Science Center; Forensic Biology/DNA)
  2. No. 23.32; Hearne, Timothy (Houston Forensic Science Center; Latent Prints)
  3. No. 23.35; Smith, Rodney (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences; Autopsy)
  4. No. 23.36; Yarbrough, Curtis C. (Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences; DNA, Serology)
5. Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:
    - a. Accreditation activities, communications and reports received since April 14, 2023 quarterly meeting;
    - b. Discuss incorporation of Commission assessment checklist in ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) accreditation process effective for all accreditation activities occurring after September 1, 2023;
    - c. Discuss automatic copying of all accreditation communications to designated email boxes effective June 1, 2023 by accrediting bodies and accredited crime laboratories; and
    - d. Summary of reported nonconsensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories. (Garcia/Tomlin)
  6. Discuss licensing advisory committee update, including:
    - a. Licenses issued and renewed;
    - b. Consider nominations and make appointments to available Licensing Advisory Committee seats; and
    - c. Update on voluntary licensure requirements, including specific standards required to be implemented by employing laboratories of voluntary license applicants. (Garcia/Tomlin)
  7. Update regarding complaint #21.27 University of Colorado, National Innocence Project on behalf of Nanon Williams (Houston PD/Houston Forensic Science Center) (Firearms/Toolmarks).
  8. Review and possible adoption of final investigative report regarding complaint #22.16 Harris County Public Defender's Office on behalf of Webster, Joseph (Ron Smith & Associates; Friction Ridge).

9. Review and possible adoption of amendments to final investigative report for self-disclosure #21.72 Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Toxicology); discuss supplemental self-disclosure related toxicology/blood casework review by laboratory.
10. Discuss current forensic development training and education projects, including:
  - a. August 18, 2023 Zoom meeting with DNA laboratories to discuss difficult suitability determinations for DNA mixture profile interpretation;
  - b. November 1-3, 2023 DNA training for lawyers and judges with the Court of Criminal Appeals;
  - c. Sponsorship of laboratory manager certification (Levels 1 and 2) by National Forensic Leadership Academy;
  - d. Hosting of first meeting of National Association of State Forensic Boards: November 16 and 17, 2023; and
  - e. December 7-8, 2023 meeting with DNA laboratories to discuss suitability determinations for DNA mixture profile interpretation.
11. Update regarding 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, including SB 991 on development of crime laboratory portal and HB 3474 impacting appeals process for accredited laboratories.
12. Discuss and propose rulemaking responsive to bills from 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative session, including SB 991 and HB 3474 impacting appeals process for accredited laboratories.
13. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors.
14. Consider proposed agenda items for next quarterly meeting.
15. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly meetings, including October 20, 2023, and January 2024 quarterly meetings.
16. Hear public comment.
17. Adjourn.

**To increase public access to meetings, the Commission will endeavor to live-stream all quarterly meetings on its website at [www.fsc.texas.gov](http://www.fsc.texas.gov). 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. Our ability to live-stream depends on budgetary constraints and logistical considerations at any given meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Cristabel Bodden at (512) 936-0770 or [cristabel.bodden@fsc.texas.gov](mailto:cristabel.bodden@fsc.texas.gov).**

**Persons with disabilities who plan to attend a commission meeting and need assistance should contact Cristabel Bodden at the contact information above at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements may be made.**