



Commission on Forensic Science Standards and Certifications Advisor Committee (SAC)

Minutes

March 16, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Delaware State University

Bank of America Building

1200 N. Dupont Hwy

Dover, DE 19904

1. **Welcome, Call to Order-**Dr. Clytrice Watson
The meeting was called to order by Dr. Watson and the committee members were formally introduced.

2. **Introductions of committee members**

Voting Committee Members:

Clytrice Watson, Delaware State University

A. Robyn Quinn Laboratory Manager II - Controlled Substances and Arson Units

Patricia A. Monaghan, Quality Assurance Manager

Dr. Alice Brione, LtCol, USAF, MC

Lisa Schwind, Unit Head Forensic Services and Education

Non-Voting Members:

Absent Voting Members:

Alice Brione

Johna Esposito

2. **New Business**

- a. **Mission of SAC sub-committee**

A draft of the overview of the SAC committee distributed to committee members review for accuracy and modifications. Review and discussion of our goal, to improve DFS's lab operations and certifications, was initiated.

Discussion: The committee has a lengthy discussion on the structure and dynamics of DFS and accreditations. **Ms. Monaghan** gave an overview of the current accreditations.

- ISO 17025:2005 (International Organization for Standardization)-This is the standard which DFS uses and is specific to forensic labs.
- ANAB-ANSI/ASQ (National Accreditation Board /American National Standards Institute)- If lab is not accredited, it cannot obtain federal funding. DFS has been accredited since 2003.
- FQS (Forensic Quality Services)-recently merged with with ANSI/ASQ to form ANAB.
- ASLD/Lab
- **NAME** (National Association of Medical Examiners-accreditation for pathology since 1977 and is moving towards ISO 17020
- DFS follows the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) standards for DNA, which includes CODIS (Combined DNA Index System)
- Ms. Monaghan offered to prepare a list of most commonly used acronyms in DFS.

DFS has two certified pathologist on staff (**Dr. Collins and Dr. McDonough**) and two additional pathologist who are not certified. The duties of the non-certified pathologist do not require them to be certified. DFS is currently seeking to obtain ABFT (American Board of Forensic Toxicologist) accreditation but funding is needed.

- CAP (College of American Pathologist) is the proficiency testing agency.
 - DFS spends \$9-12, 000 annually in proficiency testing, which is paid for by federal grants, via the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) or Criminal Justice Council (CJC)

Committee goals discussion:

The immediate goal of SAC is to evaluate ASCLD vs. ANAB and determine which is appropriate for DFS.

- Ms. Monoaghan and Ms. Quinn will initiate the evaluation within DFS. The committee will review the pros and cons of both accreditation agencies.
- SAC will make a recommendation to the Secretary Schiliro and the Commission on Forensic Science. A deadline for this recommendation has not been proposed.

Educational Outreach Discussion:

The committee briefly discussed the composition of non-voting members and seeking individuals from the academic sector. This component of SAC needs to be further developed.

Meeting Times:

The proposed dates seem to be fine with 10-Noon being the most acceptable time.

May 18, 2015, July 13, 2015, September 14, 2015 and November 9, 2015

Adjourned 10:40 am