



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

MINUTES

May 18, 2015

10-12:00 p.m.

Division of Forensic Science

200 S. Adams Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

Voting Committee Members

Clytrice Watson	Associate Dean/Department Chair Biology, Delaware State University
Alice Briones	Lt. Col. USAF, MC
Johna Esposito	Toxicology, DFS
Patricia Monaghan	Quality Assurance Manager, DFS
Robyn Quinn	Laboratory manager II, Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Evidence Units DFS
Lisa Schwind	Unit Head Forensic Services and Education

Non-Voting Members

DAG Lisa Morris	Department of Justice
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1. **Welcome, Call to Order**-Dr. Clytrice Watson

2. **Approval of March 16, 2015 Minutes**

Minutes were discussed for corrections and modification. Approved

New Business

Dr. Watson reviewed the task of the committee, which is to make a recommendation to the commission for the accreditation agency to be used by DFS. The deadline was been moved to July 2015 as the ANAB accreditation expires in **June 2016**.

- As requested by Dr. Watson at the March 16th meeting, Mrs. Monaghan and Ms. Quinn provided summarization and comparison of ASCLD/LAB and ANAB for discussion.
- Mr. Wolf, Director of DFS, had also provided accreditation comparisons for ASCLD/LAB and ANAB.

Ms. Quinn was asked to lead the review of the ANAB accreditation process and benefits of this organization. She and Mrs. Monaghan provided details on the pros and cons of each agency.

Points of interest and discussion

- DFS may not meet physical requirements for ASCLD
- There are 397 crime laboratories accredited by ASCLD/LAB as of June 11, 2015, including 190 state laboratories, 133 local agency labs and 31 federal labs, 18 international and 25 private. Additionally, there are 357 crime laboratories are accredited under the International Testing Program, 15 crime laboratories are accredited under the International Calibration Program, and 25 crime laboratories are accredited under the Legacy Program (<http://www.asclcd-lab.org/accredited-laboratory-index/>).
- Information provided by committee members indicate there are 70-100 labs accredited by ANAB, but this information has yet to be referenced.
- It was suggested to continue with ANAB and strategically move forward to transition to ASCLD/LAB.
- ANAB expires in June 2016.
- Perhaps there should be a pre-assessment/preliminary review of accreditation requirements for each agency.
- It was mentioned that ASCLD assessors are typically not actively working in labs and ANAB assessors are current technicians/practitioners.
- Many labs accredited by ASCLD are legacy labs, meaning they merged into ISO standards.
- The major point is, regardless of which agency selected, the transition to ISO standards is the goal.
- ANAB is accredited to ISO Standards.
- ASCLD is not accredited to any ISO standards.
- Keeping ANAB will continue to provide a negative perception of DFS.

The suggestion was made to seek dual accreditation.

- Cons: Cost, time and disruption to work environment.
- Perhaps pursue dual accreditation for a shorter period of time to self assess internally.
- Additional hire would be needed to handle the workload.
- It was pointed out and discussed that both agencies have scandals associated with labs under their accreditation.
- ANAB offers ISO 17020 and ASCLD does not
- NAME will switch to ISO 17020 standards in the near future.
- The question was raised regarding DFS obtaining grants if dual accreditation is obtained. The answer is no.
- DFS would dictate the number of auditors for either agency. Double the number of assessors to fix the current public perception.

Per the request of Dr. Watson, Mr. Wolf was requested to join the meeting to discuss the benefits of ASCLD accreditation. He provided an additional version to the document provided by Mrs. Monaghan, which he reached out to the president of ASCLD for information. He highlighted that ANAB did not find problems and did not do its job for DFS, thus resulting in the recent problems.

It was decided that an additional meeting was needed prior to the Commissions July 27th meeting. The meeting was schedule for June 22, 2015 at 10am and will be held on the campus of Delaware State University, Science Center South room 122C

Adjourned