



TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

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

TEXAS FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION **QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

The Texas Forensic Science Commission (Commission) met in person and by videoconference on July 25, 2025, at the Barbara Jordan State Office Building at 1601 Congress Avenue, Room 2.035, Austin, Texas 78701.

Members Present: Jeffrey Barnard, MD, Presiding Officer
Michael Coble, PhD
Stacey Mitchell, DNP
Jasmine Drake, PhD
Sarah Kerrigan, PhD
Erika Ziemak, MS
Patrick Buzzini, PhD
Jarvis Parsons, JD

The following members attended the meeting via Zoom video conference: Mr. Jarvis Parsons, Dr. Michael Coble, Dr. Sarah Kerrigan, and Dr. Jasmine Drake.

Members Absent: Mark Daniel, JD

Staff Present: Lynn Garcia, General Counsel
Leigh Tomlin, Associate General Counsel
Robert Smith, Senior Staff Attorney
Chelsea Estes, Commission Coordinator
Veena Mohan, Assistant General Counsel
Steve Miller, Multimedia Producer
Maggie Sowatzka, Program Specialist

During this meeting, the Commission considered and acted on the following items. The Commission took breaks as necessary.

1. Call meeting to order. Roll call for members. Excuse any absent board members.

Barnard called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Commissioners were present as indicated above. Barnard introduced the new Commissioner, Dr. Stacey Mitchell.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Buzzini moved to excuse Daniel's absence. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*



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2. **Review and adopt minutes from the April 11, 2025, quarterly commission meeting and disclosure No. 24.32 DNA Reference Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA) May 14, 2025 investigative panel meeting.**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to approve the April 11, 2025, quarterly commission meeting minutes. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

MOTION AND VOTE: *Ziemak and Coble moved to approve the No. 24.32 DNA Reference Laboratory (Forensic Biology/DNA) May 14, 2025, minutes as drafted. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

3. **Office administrative update (FY2025 budget status report; update on implementation of ALiS licensing platform; update on office construction). (General Counsel Garcia/Associate General Counsel Tomlin)**

Garcia discussed the FY2025 budget status report. The fiscal year closes on August 31, 2025. The Commission received funding in the budget for a scientist position.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to instruct Commission staff to work with human resources at the Office of Court Administration to post and hire a senior level forensic scientist. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

Garcia gave an update on the office construction funded by the Texas Facilities Commission. Construction is scheduled to begin before the October 24, 2025 quarterly meeting and is expected to be completed by April 2026.

Tomlin provided an update on the staff's progress in transitioning the forensic analyst licensing program's application process from TopClass, a learning management system, to ALiS, a software program the Office of Court Administration's licensing and certification programs use. Staff members meet regularly with the ALiS programmers and the Office of Court Administration's coordinating project manager to facilitate the implementation of the new system. The target date for full implementation of the new application system by ALiS is August 31, 2025. Texas.gov is transitioning to a new payment system on July 31, 2025. During the transition, there may be a delay in licensing payments. License renewals and new applications will not be delayed, however.

4. **Discuss and consider complaints and laboratory self-disclosures pending from the April 11, 2025 quarterly commission meeting and new complaints and laboratory self-disclosures received through July 3, 2025, as detailed below. (Commissioner Daniel)**



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Self-disclosures Pending from April 11, 2025:

1. No. 25.06; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)

A self-disclosure by Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where an analyst claimed overtime but did not perform any work during that time.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to take no further action based on the disciplinary action taken by the laboratory and the separation of the analyst from the laboratory on June 30, 2025. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

2. No. 25.10; Quality Forensic Toxicology (Toxicology – Blood Alcohol)

A self-disclosure by Quality Forensic Toxicology reporting an incident where the laboratory discovered its BAC1 and BAC2 columns were reinstalled into the incorrect outlets by an Agilent field service technician.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory as well as the lab's responses to Dr. Kerrigan's inquiry requesting more thorough documentation and revisions to the standard operating procedure. Parsons seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

Self-Disclosures Received as of July 3, 2025:

3. No. 24.56; Sorenson Forensics (Forensic Biology/DNA)

A self-disclosure by Sorenson Forensics reporting an incident in its forensic biology section where the laboratory discovered the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) conducted and instructed analysts to conduct case reviews of previously generated data with no documented procedure for performing the reviews and no technical or administrative review.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis, case review, and corrective actions by the laboratory and the fact that the former CEO is no longer associated with the laboratory. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*



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4. **No. 24.57**; NMS Labs (Seized Drugs)

A self-disclosure by NMS Labs reporting an incident in its Dallas/Fort Worth seized drugs section where the laboratory discovered multiple instances of an analyst switching cases and working under the incorrect case numbers in the laboratory's Laboratory Information System (LIMS). Upon further investigation, NMS discovered additional errors by the analyst.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory, and the fact that the analyst is no longer employed by the laboratory. Drake seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

5. **No. 25.18**; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA)

A self-disclosure by the Center for Human Identification reporting an issue in its missing persons unit where, during a demineralization bone extraction procedure on January 8, 2025, a senior forensic technologist discovered that the 5 mL pipette tips being used lacked the aerosol resistant filter barrier required by the associated laboratory procedure.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Buzzini moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions. Drake seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

RECUSALS: Commissioners Coble and Ziemak recused from discussion and vote on the matter.

6. **No. 25.21**; Houston Forensic Science Center (Crime Scene Investigation)

A self-disclosure by the Houston Forensic Science Center reporting the termination of a crime scene investigator (CSI), on May 19, 2025, due to dishonesty and lack of candor in reporting an incident where the CSI added pages of notes to an investigative case file and backdated the notes to the original notes' date.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Buzzini moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory, and the fact that the analyst is no longer employed at HFSC. Drake seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

7. **No. 25.22**; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)



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A self-disclosure by the Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where the laboratory identified a miscalculation in its uncertainty of measurement calculation for single weighing events that resulted in incorrectly reported uncertainty measurements for seized drugs casework.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory, and the fact that ANAB will be reviewing the lab's approach to measurement uncertainty at its next assessment. Parsons seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

8. No. 25.23; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)

A self-disclosure by the Serological Research Institute reporting an incident in its forensic biology section where an analyst obtained an unexpected female profile from a sample (notebook paper stain) from a sexual assault kit being investigated for a secondary reference from a deceased person of interest.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to table the self-disclosure pending follow-up to questions posed by Commissioners Coble and Ziemak. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

9. No. 25.24; Serological Research Institute (Forensic Biology/DNA)

A self-disclosure by Serological Research Institute reporting an incident where the laboratory identified a sample switch between two cases during the quantification step of the analysis.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Buzzini moved to table the self-disclosure pending follow-up to questions posed by Commissioners Coble and Ziemak. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

10. No. 25.25; Signature Science, LLC (Forensic Biology/DNA)

A self-disclosure by Signature Science, LLC reporting an incident where, after an annual transcript review of an analyst's testimony, the laboratory determined the analyst did not follow recommendations issued during their 2021 testimony evaluation, and that the analyst did not testify accurately for 2022-2024 testimony transcript reviews.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Ziemak moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis, testimony review, and corrective actions by the laboratory, and the fact that the*



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analyst is no longer employed by Signature Science. Coble seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.

11. No. 25.26; Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (Forensic Biology/DNA)

A self-disclosure by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences reporting an incident in its forensic biology section where analysts received an offender hit in CODIS on a DNA profile for a listed complainant when the laboratory should have removed the profile from CODIS.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Ziemak moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Parsons seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

12. No. 25.30; Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory (Toxicology; Blood Alcohol)

A self-disclosure by the Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory reporting an incident where a batch of five alcohol content cases, and an analyst proficiency test (PT) for blood alcohol, were reported out despite the calibrator being out of range.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

13. No 25.32; Department of Public Safety – Lubbock (Seized Drugs)

A self-disclosure by the Department of Public Safety – Lubbock reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where an analyst identified evidence contained in Item 1 did not match the evidence reported in the original seized drugs analysis report dated October 31, 2024.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

14. No. 25.35; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs Evidence)



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A self-disclosure by the Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where the laboratory shipped two containers of evidence to Armstrong Forensics without following the required preparation steps for outsourced casework.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Coble seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

15. No. 25.36; Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory (Seized Drugs)

A self-disclosure by the Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where an analyst reported a drug weight in milligrams rather than the correct number of "grams".

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis, case review, and corrective actions by the laboratory and the fact that the analyst is no longer employed by the laboratory due to a separate misreporting of overtime hours. Parsons seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

16. No. 25.37; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)

A self-disclosure by the Brazoria County Crime Laboratory reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where the laboratory discovered an analyst trainee accessed previously issued reports, contrary to instructions prohibiting reference to previous reports, in the completion of her training casework, including one instance where she viewed a report before beginning sampling.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

17. No. 25.38; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Toxicology; Blood Alcohol)

A self-disclosure by the Brazoria County Crime Laboratory reporting an incident in its toxicology (blood alcohol) section where a toxicologist consistently had one or more whole blood controls fail to meet the 5% target concentration during the most recent four analyses leading to either partial or entire batches failing due to samples not being bracketed by passing controls.



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MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

18. No. 25.39; Brazoria County Crime Laboratory (Seized Drugs)

A self-disclosure by the Brazoria County Crime Laboratory reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where a trainee discovered the laboratory used sodium bicarbonate being used for qualitative analysis outside of the laboratory's retest/expiration date for the chemical.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

19. No. 25.19; Department of Public Safety – Houston (Seized Drugs Evidence)

A self-disclosure by the Department of Public Safety – Houston reporting an incident in its seized drugs section where evidence technicians destroyed a case intended for analysis.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

20. No. 25.31; Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory System (Seized Drugs and Toxicology Evidence)

A self-disclosure by the Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory System reporting the Waco laboratory shipped a pelican case containing 6 seized drugs and toxicology samples via Federal Express (FedEx) Priority Overnight to the Austin laboratory on May 5, 2025. The Austin laboratory never received the shipment.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions taken by the laboratory and the fact that the laboratory plans to fully transition to in-person evidence submission. Parsons seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

21. No. 25.33; Department of Public Safety – Weslaco (Seized Drugs)



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A self-disclosure by the Department of Public Safety – Weslaco reporting an incident where, during the review of a destruction batch, the laboratory discovered an evidence technician destroyed two seized drugs cases marked “do not destroy”.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

22. No. 25.16; Center for Human Identification (Forensic Biology/DNA; Qiagen Manufacturing Issue)

A self-disclosure by the Center for Human Identification reporting an incident in its forensic biology section related to the failure of Qiagen EZ1&2 DNA Investigator Kits used in the laboratory’s extraction process.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Parsons seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

RECUSALS: Commissioners Coble and Ziemak recused from discussion and vote on the matter.

23. No. 25.17; Signature Science (Forensic Biology/DNA; Qiagen Manufacturing Issue)

A self-disclosure by Signature Science reporting an incident in its forensic biology section where the laboratory discovered a human blood sample sent by a client as a blind quality control sample unexpectedly came back with no/insufficient DNA. The laboratory ultimately attributed the issue to a manufacturing error associated with Qiagen’s EZ1&2 extraction cartridges.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to take no further action based on the root cause analysis and corrective actions by the laboratory. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

Complaints Received as of July 3, 2025

24. No. 25.28; Parker, Amber (Alere Toxicology Services; Toxicology)

A complaint by Amber Parker alleging Alere Toxicology Services performed unaccredited confirmatory testing of urine for the purposes of revoking pretrial bond.



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MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to dismiss the complaint because the confirmatory testing of urine by a College of American Pathologists-accredited laboratory is exempt from Commission accreditation requirements by administrative rule when the results are used in an action to revise or revoke bond. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

25. No. 25.29; Sween, Gretchen (Houston Forensic Science Center; Latent Prints)

A complaint filed by defense attorney Gretchen Sween on behalf of defendant Lucky Ward, alleging a suspicion of evidence tampering by Ron Smith and Associates and Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC) analysts to obtain a latent print match in a cold case, and alleging other significant issues involving multiple incidents spanning over 10 years of DNA analysis by HFSC analysts to obtain results implicating a specific person.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to table the complaint to allow the laboratory more time to conduct a review of the allegations and provide a response. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

26. No. 25.40; Swiergula, Jennae (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences; Forensic Biology/DNA)

A complaint filed by a defense attorney alleging the DNA analysis by the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (SWIFS) and the testimony of SWIFS analyst Angela Fitzwater was a product of suspect and victim-driven interpretations, lacked a stochastic threshold, and was obtained in violation of certain laboratory standard operating procedures. The complaint also alleges issues with the collection of evidence by a serologist and the use of combined probability of inclusion statistics (rather than the stated random match probability statistics) regarding certain items.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Buzzini moved to dismiss the complaint given the laboratory's response, including their recommendation to reinterpret the DNA mixtures in the case Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

RECUSALS: Commissioner Barnard recused from discussion and vote on the matter.

Staff Dismissals

27. No. 25.20; Rosario, Richard (Austin State Hospital/DNA Reference Laboratory; Forensic Biology/DNA)



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A complaint by Richard Rosario against the Austin State Hospital alleging his DNA identification information is being stolen or disposed of and his official remains are not being handled legitimately.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to approve staff's recommendation to dismiss the complaint because it is outside the Commission's jurisdiction. Parsons seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

5. **Discuss status of crime laboratory accreditation program, including:**
 - a. **Summary of accreditation activities, communications, and reports received since the July 3, 2025, quarterly commission meeting;**

Tomlin reported 13 accreditation related events before the Commission this quarter. Three of the events require follow-up. Any outstanding items will carry over into the October quarterly meeting.

- b. **Summary of reported non-consensus proficiency testing results from accredited crime laboratories; and**

Staff reported 18 proficiency monitoring nonconsensus communications from laboratories this quarter. None of the proficiency tests required any further follow-up.

- c. **Discuss and vote on rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to § 651.5, to add Rapid DNA to the list of forensic disciplines subject to Commission accreditation requirements.**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to propose changes to the rules as discussed, subject to nonsubstantive revisions from the Office of the Governor, Texas Register, and Commission staff. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

6. **Discuss updates from licensing advisory committee, including:**
 - a. **Report on licenses issued and renewed;**

Tomlin reported there are currently 1,339 total licenses. 132 will renew this year. There were 40 new applications last month.

- b. **Report and discussion of items from July 24, 2025, Licensing Advisory Committee meeting;**



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Tomlin reported the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC) met July 24, 2025. The Committee discussed ways for smaller, unaccredited agencies to work to comply with quality assurance standards that are required for the voluntary licensure program, including the proficiency monitoring and technical review requirements. The Committee formed a small group to define what the requirements should be, with the possible establishment of competency exams as a gateway for those to achieve licensure. The Committee discussed draft guidance documents and a checklist for an intra/inter-agency mock proficiency monitoring program and corresponding model standard operating procedures. The Committee also discussed assignments for developing an updated version of the Mandatory Legal and Professional Responsibility Course required for licensees. The Committee further issued a directive to staff to form topic-based working groups to update the General Forensic Analyst and Technician licensing exams, including a review of the tested domains on the exam and the reading materials. Dr. Kelly Wouters will participate in his final meeting this October. Staff is discussing potential replacement nominees with Dr. Peter Stout, President of the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (TACLD). Nominations for any open LAC seats will come from the TACLD.

- c. Review and possibly adopt any coursework and/or criminal history evaluation recommendations from Licensing Advisory Committee;**

There were no coursework evaluations this quarter.

- d. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to § 651.207, Forensic Analyst and Forensic Technician Licensing Requirements, Including Initial License Term and Fee, Minimum Education and Coursework, General Forensic Examination, Proficiency Monitoring and Mandatory Legal and Professional Responsibility Training, to require forensic biology/DNA analyst compliance with current coursework requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing rather than the older, 2011 requirements;**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to propose changes to the rules as discussed, subject to suggested non-substantive revisions by the Office of the Governor, Texas Register, and Commission staff. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

- e. Discuss and vote on recommended rule changes including, but not limited to, amendments to § 651.222, Voluntary Licensure Forensic Analyst and Technician Licensing Requirements to 1) permit latent print analysts working in unaccredited laboratories to fulfill the certification requirement for**



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licensure through a competency exam administered by the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification or proctor approved by the Commission; and 2) qualify crime scene reconstruction analysts with a high school diploma or equivalent degree for licensure;

MOTION AND VOTE: *Ziemak moved to adopt changes to the rules discussed, subject to suggested non-substantive revisions by the Office of the Governor, Texas Register, and Commission staff. Drake seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

- f. Discuss and vote on Licensing Advisory Committee re-appointments of eligible members; and**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Parsons moved to re-appoint licensing advisory committee members Michelle Paulson, Carina Haynes, Andrew Greenwood, and Katherine Sanchez. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

- g. Report on licensing issues identified by laboratories.**

There were no licensing issues to report this quarter.

- 7. Update from investigative panel for self-disclosure No. 24.32; (DNA Reference Laboratory; Forensic Biology/DNA), including review and possible adoption of final investigative report.**

Smith presented a summary of the self-disclosure and staff's findings and recommendations in the matter.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to adopt the draft investigative report subject to non-substantive revisions by staff or the accrediting body. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

- 8. Update from investigative panel on complaint No. 24.45; Thiessen, Mark (Department of Public Safety Houston; Toxicology).**

Staff interviewed the subject of the complaint, the complainant, and the toxicology expert. The panel reviewed multiple transcripts and documents. Staff plans to have an in-person panel meeting before the Commission's next quarterly meeting. The panel expects to present a draft investigative report at the Commission's October 24, 2025, quarterly meeting.



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9. **Update from investigative panel on complaint No. 24.46; Nilles, Patrick (Forensic Forgery Experts; Document Examination).**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to withdraw the April 11, 2025, vote to accept the complaint for investigation. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

MOTION AND VOTE: *Ziemak moved to dismiss the complaint for lack of jurisdiction because the complaint involves a civil case. Drake seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

10. **Update from staff and review and possible adoption of amended final investigative report for complaint No. 24.58; Schuette, Kevin (Department of Public Safety – Tyler; Seized Drugs).**

MOTION AND VOTE: *Kerrigan moved to adopt the amended investigative report subject to non-substantive revisions by staff. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

11. **Report from the Commission’s Firearm/Toolmark Working Group meetings, including the April 30, 2025 Firearm/Toolmark Method Conformance Working Group meeting, the May 2, and June 17, 2025 Firearm/Toolmark Blind Verification Working Group meeting, and the upcoming September 30, 2025 Firearms Working Group meeting.**

Smith gave an update on the Firearm/Toolmark Working Group meetings. In April, NIST demonstrated their validation assessment tool. The next meeting for the Blind Verification Group takes place on August 19, 2025. There will be an in-person meeting on September 30, 2025, which will include a hands-on training by NIST to teach analysts how to use the new assessment tool.

12. **Update and discuss the Commission’s April 17, 2025 and June 27, 2025 statewide task force on Rapid DNA meetings in Austin, Texas, including possible adoption of expanded scope of work.**

Garcia provided an update on the Rapid DNA working group. DPS has received funding for a pilot program for Rapid DNA testing on arrestee samples in Montgomery and Williamson County. The group is developing three deliverables outlined in the motion below.



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MOTION AND VOTE: *Kerrigan moved to adopt the scope of work proposed by the statewide task force on Rapid DNA, including:*

- 1. Develop statement regarding the types of samples that are best suited for Rapid DNA based on existing technology and research;*
 - 2. Develop an accreditation umbrella MOU that may be adopted by laboratories accredited by ANAB or A2LA in partnership with LE agencies (FBI soon to release model); and*
 - 3. Develop Rapid DNA Operator licensing program parameters.*
- Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

13. Discussion re: forensic apprenticeship pilot program (SB 1620). (Stout/Garcia)

Garcia shared that the Legislature approved funding requested for the forensic apprenticeship pilot program in conjunction with Senate Bill 1620. Next steps are being discussed. The Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors will send out a survey to discuss which areas of forensic science have the greatest need. The survey will include input from law enforcement agencies and district attorney's offices. Staff will discuss details about the contracts with the Office of Court Administration and details about curricula development with universities.

14. Discuss recent and upcoming forensic development training and education projects.

Garcia shared that she was invited to give a presentation on the report written about DNA evaluations given activity level propositions at the statewide trace meeting held by DPS. Garcia also gave a presentation at the Tarrant County Capital defense lawyers seminar. At the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification (TDIAI) annual conference, Celestina Rossi and Garcia shared about the voluntary licensing program. In the coming weeks, Garcia will present at the conference held by the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation (AGACL). The Commission will also host a training on DNA mixture interpretation with a heavy focus on number of contributors and relevant tools in Waco, Texas next month. Smith is expected to present at the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's innocence seminar as well this year.

15. Report from the DNA Technical Leader Working Group on reporting and testimony related to DNA evaluations given activity level propositions. (Garcia)

Jarrah Kennedy has been leading the DNA Technical Leader Working Group. The group recently achieved consensus on the principles of the reporting statements, which will soon be submitted to the Commission for approval. The group's next objective is a guidance document around answering transfer, persistence, prevalence, and recovery (TPPR) questions during testimony.



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16. Update regarding Department of Public Safety on Crime Laboratory Records Connect portal including administrative rules and funding for laboratories within Office of the Governor.

Brady Mills (Mills), DPS Crime Laboratory Division Chief, gave an update regarding the Crime Laboratory Records Connect portal. DPS is working with selected vendor, Sistema Technologies. DPS expects to have their system requirements developed by August 31, 2025. DPS created a working group with attorneys to allow them to provide feedback on the interface. The portal is expected to go live in August of 2026. They have started integration discussions with individual labs between DPS, their vendor, the laboratory, and the LIMS vendor. DPS's administrative rules on the portal have been approved. DPS is also developing a grant program with the Governor's office to assist in funding laboratory needs (document scanning, etc.) for participation in the portal.

17. Update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors, including legislative update on items of interest to forensic community.

Mills provided an update from the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors. Their meeting occurred on July 24, 2025. Mills discussed Senate Bill 1620, which proposes the forensic analyst apprenticeship program.

18. Consider possible agenda items for next quarterly meeting.

No additional items were discussed other than those noted throughout the agenda.

19. Schedule and location of future panel and quarterly commission meetings including, but not limited, to the October 24, 2025; January 30, 2026; April 24, 2026; July 31, 2026; and October 23, 2026, quarterly commission meetings.

MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to direct staff to schedule the October 24, 2025, January 20, 2026, April 24, 2026, July 31, 2026, and October 23, 2026, quarterly meetings. Buzzini seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adopted the motion.*

20. Public comment.

There were no public comments other than that noted above.

21. Adjourn.



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MOTION AND VOTE: *Drake moved to adjourn the meeting. Ziemak seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.*