



November 06, 2020

**Division of Criminal Justice Services
Virtual Meeting¹**

10:03 AM – 1:36 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

DNA Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Frederick Bieber, Ph.D.
Allison Eastman, Ph.D.
Katherine Gettings, Ph.D.
Kenneth Kidd, Ph.D.
Jenifer Smith, Ph.D.
Amanda Sozer, Ph.D.
Bruce Weir, Ph.D.

DCJS Staff in Attendance:

Jill Dooley
Natasha Harvin-Locklear
Shelley Palmer
Jackalynne Vimislik

	<i>Approximate video times</i>
Dr. Weir opened the meeting by explaining that each member of the Subcommittee was in attendance via the web conference from their own locations. He noted that all members of the Subcommittee were present.	00:00:00 – 00:01:44
Dr. Weir then asked for a motion to approve the agenda which was made by Dr. Sozer, seconded by Dr. Bieber, and approved unanimously.	00:01:44 – 00:03:33
The Chair then asked Subcommittee members for questions or comments on the minutes from the August 14, 2020 Subcommittee meeting. Dr. Eastman suggested an edit to amend a typographical error. Dr. Eastman made a motion to accept the minutes with the mentioned edit, Dr Kidd seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.	00:03:33 – 00:05:30
Next, the Subcommittee reviewed Accreditation/Laboratory updates from the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory, Monroe County Crime Laboratory,	00:05:30 – 01:02:48

¹ Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1, issued on March 12, 2020, suspending the Open Meetings Law and authorizing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar service.

Nassau County Division of Forensic Services, Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences, Suffolk County Crime Laboratory, and the Westchester County Division of Forensic Sciences. Representatives from the laboratories were available to answer any questions for the Subcommittee.

During this portion of the meeting, the Chair requested a motion to issue a binding recommendation to the Commission on Forensic Science to renew the New York State accreditation for the Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences, in the discipline of Biology, for the period concurrent with their ANAB accreditation. Dr. Gettings made the motion, it was seconded by Dr. Eastman, and approved unanimously.

36:45 –
37:42

The Chair then moved to Old Business. A verbal update was provided on the Partial Match program, Familial Search program, and CODIS Bulletins. Then a review and discussion of the previously introduced NYS Biology Technical Working Group (BIOTWG) letter regarding STRMix took place as members of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science sought clarification regarding the letter during their September meeting. Subcommittee members also reviewed a letter from Commissioner Loftis regarding the same issue. A motion was made by Dr. Kidd to provide both the BIOTWG and Loftis letters to ESR and request a written response to the questions therein prior to the next Subcommittee meeting in February. The Subcommittee also requested that ESR provide any other documentation they deem necessary as well as a draft manuscript of their response. Included in the motion was to inform the Commission on Forensic Science of the actions taken by the Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Eastman, and approved unanimously. The Chair then asked for a motion to request that each of the laboratories using STRMix respond in writing to the questions posed by the Commission before the February meeting as well. The motion was made by Dr. Gettings, seconded by Dr. Eastman, and approved unanimously.

01:02:48 –
01:21:33

Also, under Old Business, Ray Wickenheiser, Director of the New York State Police Crime Laboratory provided a presentation regarding Investigative Genetic Genealogy. Dr. Dooley provided an update from Dr. Anne Walsh of the New York State Department of Health (DOH) regarding the DOH approval of AKESOgen in the category of *Genetic testing – molecular*.

01:21:33 –
01:59:46

Under New Business the Subcommittee reviewed a presentation by Dan Myers from the New York State Police Crime Laboratory regarding their Familial Search Expansion Validation. A motion to delay action by the Subcommittee until further information can be provided by the New York State Police Crime Laboratory was made by Dr. Bieber, seconded by Dr. Kidd, and approved unanimously with 6 votes [Dr. Smith left the meeting]. OFS Director, Dr. Jill Dooley, then provided Subcommittee members with an update regarding the 2020 New York State CODIS Audits.

01:59:46 –
02:36:59

The Subcommittee then reviewed a Laboratory Disclosure from the New York State Police Crime Laboratory. A member from the laboratory was available to answer questions as needed.

02:36:59 –
02:37:32

The Chair then requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss matters relating to a current investigation or matters that may lead to the appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline, or suspension of a person. Dr. Gettings made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Sozer, and approved unanimously.

*Approximate
video times*
02:37:32
02:38:22

The Subcommittee adjourned into Executive Session. Subcommittee members present: Bieber, Eastman, Gettings, Kidd, Sozer, and Weir. The Subcommittee discussed a complaint and reviewed a request from the New York State Commission of Forensic Science regarding the complaint. The Subcommittee voted to request further information regarding the complaint. Dr. Weir made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Kidd, and approved unanimously with 5 votes [Dr. Sozer left before the vote]. Executive Session commenced at 12:42 PM and concluded at 1:24 PM. The Subcommittee reconvened the Open Meeting.

02:38:22
02:40:30

The Chair stated that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place virtually on February 5, 2021. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Gettings, seconded by Dr. Eastman, and approved unanimously.

02:40:30 –
02:41:52

Note: Video of the meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/nyspublicsafety>