



**June 16, 2021**

**Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Virtual Meeting<sup>1</sup>**

**2:02 PM – 2:29 PM**

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

### **DNA Subcommittee Members in Attendance:**

Frederick Bieber, Ph.D.  
Allison Eastman, Ph.D.  
Katherine Gettings, 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

The Chair, Dr. Weir, opened the meeting by explaining that all members of the Subcommittee, except Dr. Kidd, were in attendance via the web conference from their own location.

*Approximate  
video times*

00:00:00 –  
00:02:02

Dr. Weir then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Bieber, seconded by Dr. Gettings, and approved unanimously.

00:02:02 –  
00:03:11

00:03:11 –  
00:19:00

Subcommittee members then discussed the issue brought forth by the New York State Biology Technical Working Group (BIOTWG) regarding an issue with the highest posterior density tool of STRMix. Discussion involved a letter from former Commission member, David Loftis, in which he provided specific questions for the software developer ESR. Subcommittee members discussed responses from ESR, and the laboratories utilizing STRMix regarding how they had addressed the issue within their management systems. Dr. Buckleton from ESR was present at the meeting for additional questions from Subcommittee members.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Dr. Weir then made a motion to send a letter to the New York State Commission on Forensic Science in response to their request for a recommendation regarding the BIOTWG notification of an issue with the highest posterior density tool in STRMix. Specifically, that all the items in the Loftis letter have been answered to the satisfaction of the DNA Subcommittee and that there is no further action needed by the Subcommittee or the Commission. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and approved with 4 votes for [Bieber, Eastman, Gettings, Smith] and 2 abstentions [Sozer, Weir].

00:19:00–  
00:26:55

The Chair stated that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place virtually on August 6, 2021. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Sozer, seconded by Dr. Smith, and approved unanimously.

00:26:55–  
00:28:50

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