



August 5, 2022

Empire State Development Corporation

633 3rd Ave
37th Floor
New York, NY

500 Montgomery Ave
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA

Hans Rosling Center

3980 15th Ave NE
1st Floor
Seattle, WA

9:06 AM – 9:32 AM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

DNA Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Katherine Gettings, Ph.D.
Ken Kidd, Ph.D.
Jenifer Smith, Ph.D
Amanda Sozer, Ph.D.
Bruce Weir, Ph.D.

DCJS Staff in Attendance:

Dean Defruscio
Jill Dooley
Colleen Glavin
Shelley Palmer
Brianna Robinson
Lindsey Rockwell
Elizabeth Suparmanto

Other Attendees:

Kyra McKay – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology
Meredith Rosenberg – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology
Tiffany Vasquez – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology

Dr. Weir opened the meeting by stating that the DNA Subcommittee is conducting its meeting in a hybrid situation with members present both in NYC and virtually. Dr. Weir then conducted a roll call for attendance as the members of the Subcommittee attended from their own locations. A quorum was established with 5 members present (Gettings, Kidd, Smith, Sozer, and Weir; Bieber was absent).

*Approximate
Video Times*
00:00:00 –
00:01:22

Dr. Weir then announced the resignation of Dr. Allison Eastman and acknowledged her dedication and commitment to the committee. Dr. Smith and Dr. Sozer also extended thanks to Dr. Eastman for her work. Dr. Weir then made a motion for the committee to go on record thanking Dr. Eastman for her service to the committee with a formal letter. A motion to approve the letter was seconded by Dr. Sozer and approved unanimously.

00:01:23 –
00:03:06

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

00:03:08 –
00:04:04

The Chair then asked Subcommittee members for questions or comments on the minutes from the May 13, 2022, meeting of the Subcommittee. Dr. Gettings made a motion to accept the minutes, Dr. Kidd seconded the motion, Dr. Sozer abstained. The motion passed with four votes (Weir, Kidd, Gettings, and Smith).

00:04:06 –
00:05:26

Next, the Subcommittee reviewed Accreditation/Laboratory updates from the Monroe County Crime Laboratory, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, and Westchester County Division of Forensic Sciences. Representatives from the laboratories were available to answer questions as needed.

00:05:30 –
00:12:27

During Accreditation/Laboratory updates, the Subcommittee reviewed the final documentation from the ANAB reaccreditation assessment activity of the Monroe County Crime Laboratory. The Chair called for a motion to issue a binding recommendation to the Commission on Forensic Science to renew the New York State Accreditation of the Monroe County Crime Laboratory in the discipline of Biology for the period concurrent with its ANAB accreditation to expire August 31, 2026. Dr. Sozer made the motion, Dr. Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

00:05:30 –
00:08:52

The Chair then moved to Old Business. A verbal update was provided on the Partial Match and Familial Search programs. Dr. Dooley provided updates to the First Judicial Department in the Appellate Division ruling in the Matter of Stevens et. al., v. The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the New York State Commission on Forensic Science, and the DNA Subcommittee of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science. Familial Search is still paused, and a notice of appeal has been filed by the Attorney General's office who is awaiting a decision before the program can resume.

00:12:30 –
00:13:45

There were no updates regarding CODIS Bulletins. Finally, Dr. Weir provided an update regarding the working group, comprised of Dr. Weir, Dr. Kidd, and Dr. Bieber, set up to discuss the language used by labs to report statistical matches. Discussions and document review are still in progress.

00:13:45 –
00:15:10

Dr. Weir 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. Sozer made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Kidd and approved unanimously.

*Approximate
video times*
00:16:00 –
00:16:59

The Subcommittee adjourned into Executive Session with all present members in attendance. The Subcommittee discussed ongoing investigations, and no action was taken. Executive Session commenced at 9:24 AM and concluded at 9:30 AM. The Subcommittee reconvened the Open Meeting.

The Chair stated that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place on November 18, 2022, with the location to be determined. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Sozer, seconded by Dr. Gettings, and approved unanimously.

00:18:21 –
00:20:15

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