



## Commission on Forensic Science

**March 13, 2026**

**Division of Criminal Justice Services**  
80 South Swan Street, Crime Stat Room 118, Albany, NY 12210

**Empire State Development Corporation**  
655 Third Ave, New York, NY 10017

**Video Conference Locations:**  
445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1203, White Plains, NY 10601

***09:03 AM – 1:10 PM***

### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Commission Members in Attendance:**

Col. Nicholas Banbury  
James Chithalen, Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>  
Lydia de Castro  
Steven Epstein, Esq.  
Jessica Goldthwaite, Esq.  
Michael Marciano, Ph.D.  
Erin Murphy, Esq.  
Shelley Palmer  
Beverly Rauch  
Rossana Rosado  
Michelli Schmitz  
Rachel Singer, Esq. (non-voting proxy for William Fitzpatrick, Esq.)  
Ann Willey, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>

#### **DCJS Staff in Attendance:**

Taylor Aaron  
Dean DeFruscio  
Colleen Glavin, Esq.  
Katherine Mayberry  
Joseph Popcun  
Brianna Robinson

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<sup>1</sup> Representative of Commission Member James V. McDonald, M.D.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with a resolution and related procedures regarding the use of videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances, which were adopted by the Commission on Forensic Science on June 9, 2023, and added to its bylaws, Dr. Ann Willey participated by video conferencing from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances.

Lindsey Rockwell  
 Matthew Schrantz, Esq.  
 Kerry Shermer  
 Elizabeth Suparmanto

**Other Attendees:**

Jennifer Alois – NYS DCJS Latent Print Laboratory  
 Danny Burnside – Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section  
 Bryan De La Rosa – New York City Police Department, Latent Print Section  
 Jill Dooley – New York State Police Crime Laboratory  
 Dawn Gigante – Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section  
 Nichole Hurbanek – New York State Police Crime Laboratory  
 Jennifer Lady – New York City Police Department, Latent Print Section  
 Tom Leach – New York State Police Crime Laboratory  
 Andrea Lester – NYS DCJS Latent Print Laboratory  
 Kyra McKay – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology  
 Craig O'Connor – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology  
 Jennifer Odien – NYC OCME, Forensic Anthropology Unit  
 Keith Olsen – Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section  
 Karen Oswald – Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section  
 Glenn Perigaut – Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section  
 Julie Pizziketti – New York State Police Crime Laboratory  
 William Sullivan – Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section  
 Tiffany Vasquez – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology  
 Christian Westring - Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory  
 John Whidden – Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section

Chair Rosado opened the meeting and noted that Rachel Singer was joining the meeting as the designated participant on behalf of the Honorable William Fitzpatrick. Chair Rosado stated that she was attending virtually, and that Ms. Palmer would run the meeting.

*Approximate  
 video times*

00:01:03 –  
 00:01:40

Ms. Palmer proceeded to take a roll call as members were in attendance in Albany, New York City, and virtually. A quorum was established with 10 voting members (Banbury, de Castro, Epstein, Goldthwaite, Marciano, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, and Schmitz); one member participated and voted from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances (Willey<sup>3</sup>).

00:01:41 –  
 00:02:19

Ms. Palmer then requested a motion to approve the March 13, 2026, agenda. Ms. Rauch requested that a discussion related to recent policy developments for the Department of Health regarding private forensic laboratories be added to the New Business section of the agenda. Dr. Marciano requested to add the OSAC Registry to the Old Business section of the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda with the amendments was made by Ms. Schmitz, seconded by Ms. Rauch and approved unanimously (Banbury, de Castro, Epstein, Goldthwaite, Marciano, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey).

00:02:21 –  
 00:03:41

<sup>3</sup> See FN 2.

Then Ms. Palmer requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025, Informational Session and the December 12, 2025, Commission meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Epstein, seconded by Ms. Schmitz, and approved unanimously.

*Approximate  
video times*  
00:03:44 –  
00:04:16

Ms. Palmer 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 particular person. The motion was made by Ms. de Castro, seconded by Dr. Marciano, and was approved with 10 votes (Banbury, de Castro, Epstein, Marciano, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, Rosado, Schmitz, and Willey), and 1 opposed (Goldthwaite). The Commission adjourned into Executive Session at 9:08am. Chair Rosado left the meeting during Executive Session.

00:04:17 –  
00:05:04

Executive Session concluded at 10:37am and the Commission reconvened at 10:47am, after a brief break. Ms. Palmer requested a motion to amend the agenda to include the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Latent Print Laboratory as item 8k under Laboratory Disclosures. The motion was made by Mr. Epstein, seconded by Ms. de Castro, and approved unanimously. Ms. Palmer then requested a motion be made for the Commission to establish a working group to address an anonymous complaint received regarding the Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Laboratory. The motion was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Schmitz, and approved unanimously. It was noted that the Commission took no formal action during Executive Session.

00:05:44 –  
00:06:42

The next agenda item to be reviewed was Accreditation/Laboratory Updates. Matters regarding the following laboratories were considered: New York City OCME Forensic Anthropology Unit, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, New York State Police Crime Laboratory, Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory, and Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research Division of Forensic Toxicology. Representatives from the laboratories were available in person or via Zoom to respond to members' questions.

00:06:43 –  
00:16:15

The Commission reviewed the final documentation from the ANAB reaccreditation assessment activity of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory. Ms. de Castro made a motion to issue a full renewal of the laboratory's New York State Accreditation for a period concurrent with their ANAB accreditation. Dr. Marciano seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 8 votes (Banbury, de Castro, Epstein, Marciano, Palmer, Rauch, Schmitz, and Willey), and 2 abstentions (Goldthwaite and Murphy).

00:13:22 –  
00:15:49

The next agenda item was Old Business. Ms. Palmer provided the Commission members with a verbal update on the Familial Search Program. Next a preliminary response was provided by the Biology Technical Working Group (BIOTWG) to the Commission regarding their request at the December meeting to consider and respond to the DNA Subcommittee's letters on the NIST Human Factors and DNA Mixture Interpretation reports. Then, Special Counsel to the Commission, Matt Schrantz, provided a response to the inquiry posed during the December 12, 2025, Commission meeting relating to the DNA Subcommittee's binding recommendation and the Commission's authority to approve the New York State Police Crime Laboratory's use of Next Generation Sequencing. Additional points were raised for consideration.

00:16:16 –  
01:07:38

Next in Old Business, per the agenda amendment, the OSAC Registry was discussed by Commission members. A motion was made by Dr. Marciano to write a letter to acknowledge the labs' commitment to quality and the substantial amount of work done to complete the gap analysis, and to recommend the labs continue to review and implement applicable SDO-published OSAC standards based on the value to their own individual quality systems. This is related to the Office of Forensic Services annual review of OSAC standards requested by the Commission at their December 12, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Murphy and approved with 9 votes (Banbury, de Castro, Epstein, Goldthwaite, Marciano, Murphy, Palmer, Rauch, and Schmitz) and 1 opposed (Willey).

*Approximate  
video times*

01:03:19 –  
01:07:36

Ms. Palmer then went into New Business and provided information regarding the 2025 Annual Laboratory Summaries. Next, the application for New York State Forensic Laboratory Accreditation of the Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section was reviewed. After a brief discussion, Ms. Palmer requested a motion to grant accreditation to the Suffolk County Police Department Identification Section for a period concurrent with their ANAB accreditation. The motion was made by Ms. de Castro, seconded by Ms. Schmitz, and approved unanimously. Then, per the agenda amendment, Ms. Rauch gave an informational update related to a change in the authority of the Department of Health to oversee private forensic laboratories following a ruling from the Suffolk County Supreme Court.

01:07:40 –  
01:37:50

01:09:27 –  
01:12:22

Next, the Commission reviewed disclosures from: Monroe County Crime Laboratory, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, New York City Police Department Police Laboratory, New York City Police Department Latent Print Section, New York State Police Crime Laboratory, Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory, Suffolk County Crime Laboratory, Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research Division of Forensic Science, Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research Division of Forensic Toxicology, Yonkers Police Department Forensic Science Laboratory, and New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Latent Print Laboratory. Representatives from laboratories were available in person or via Zoom to respond to members' questions.

01:37:55 –  
02:28:20

Ms. Palmer then stated the next Commission meeting will take place on June 12, 2026, with the location to be determined. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Goldthwaite, and approved unanimously.

02:28:22 –  
02:28:50

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