



Jami Cook  
SECRETARY

# ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY

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Kermit B. Channell II  
DIRECTOR

## Arkansas State Crime Laboratory Board Meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Following Board members were present (GoToMeeting):

- o Chuck Graham
- o Josh Farmer
- o Judge Brent Davis
- o Sheriff Tim Helder
- o Gary Smith
- o Dr. Eric Rosenbaum

The following laboratory personnel were present:

- o Director Kermit Channell
- o Assistant Director Cindy Moran
- o Ryan Black, Quality Assurance Manager
- o B. Anne Cameron
- o Michelle DePriest

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Chuck Graham. Roll call was taken by Kermit Channell. Six members were present and a quorum was made.

### Approval of Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes was made by Josh Farmer and seconded by Tim Helder. No discussion took place, all were in favor and the motion passed.

### ASCL Update

#### A. Financial

- a. Operating Budget – Funding balances were expounded on by Kermit Channell.
  1. Asset Forfeiture Fund (1VM) - 1<sup>st</sup> Half; hope to exceed our projection for FY21. We will continue to watch closely.
  2. 788 DNA Special Revenue- this funding is coming in very slowly.
  3. ACT65 (Civil filing fee) – this funding is down as well.

#### B. Annual Report

- a. Annual Report- we have created an outline for the lab and hope to publish it on our website around January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 covering information regarding :

1. Quality (Accreditation & Certification)
2. Fiscal Resources
3. Case Submissions & Completions
4. Human Capital
5. Renovations & Laboratory Needs Assessment
6. Project FORESIGHT
7. Court Testimony & Judicial Efficiencies
8. Significant Challenges

b. Case Submission and Completions

1. Little Rock – 21,965
2. Hope – 1,342
3. Lowell – 4,832

c. Request per Discipline

1. Forensic Chemistry – 61 % of our caseload.
2. Toxicology – 15%
3. Physical Evidence – 7%
4. DNA-6%
5. Medical Examiners 4%
6. Firearms & Toolmarks 4%
7. Latent Prints 3%
8. Digital evidence 1%

d. Cases received by County

1. Majority of cases submitted by Benton, Washington, Sebastian, Faulkner, Pulaski, and Craighead Counties

e. Medical Examiner-Examination

1. Total 1,427 cases (through 9/30/20)
2. Recent increase in Homicides
3. Doing Medical Examiner Consultations when possible

f. Outsourcing of Property Cases

1. Cases outsourced in 2019/2020 -857
2. CODIS Entries- 468 – 55% of case outsourced produced a useable profile to enter into CODIS.
3. CODIS Hits – 315 – 67% resulted in a CODIS hit.

C. Human Capital-Retention

1. We had 10 employee's leave in 2020 – 88% of those went to "other employment" receiving a higher salary.

2. Retention rate for analysts for 2020 was 86%. We are trying to stay above the 90% retention rate.

D. FORESIGHT 20/20

- a. Hosted by West Virginia University, 185 forensic labs participated world –wide; 2018 & 2019 ASCL received Maximus Award.
  1. We were 1 of 14 laboratories that was recognized
  2. We are operating at 90% or better for peak efficiency
  3. Focusing on the Median
- b. Cases Received
  1. Comparing ourselves to other labs (cases per 100,000 populations) we are at median or above
- c. Reports Issued
  1. We are at median or above in most disciplines with the exception of DNA, Firearms and Toolmarks. Serology is close
- d. Turn Around Times
  1. Most disciplines are above the median with the exception of DNA, Forensic Chemistry, Firearms and Toolmarks, and Forensic Pathology
- e. Cases Completed per FTE (Full Time Equivalent)
  1. All are above the median in all disciplines with the exception of DNA
  2. We are focusing on improvements in DNA
- f. Compensation
  1. Compensation includes all personnel expenditures (wages, salary, benefits, operating staff, supporting staff, and administrative staff
  2. We are much lower in all areas when compared to the median
- g. Cost per Case
  1. Cost includes allocations for capital, wages and salaries, benefits, chemicals, reagents, consumables, gasses travel, quality assurance, accreditation, subcontracting, servicing of instruments, among many other things.
  2. Our cost per case is less in all disciplines when compared to the median. This is a result of the lower compensations and more cases completed per FTE (efficiency).

E. Act 1168 Reporting

- a. Act 1168 of 2015 requires the ASCL Director to report to the Senate Pro Tempore data regarding sexual assault inventory conducted on an annual basis by Law Enforcement and Health Care Providers.
  - 1. We need to address issues with untested kits that have not been submitted.
  - 2. Only 6 Law Enforcement Agencies and 1 Medical Facility submitted inventory for Act 1168 Reporting.

F. Act 839

- a. Act 839 of 2019 requires sexual assault kits to be collected, tracked, and tested by the ASCL.
  - 1. We need to test all kits because there is value in a DNA profile
  - 2. Only exception should be "Anonymous" kits.
  - 3. Law enforcement agencies are still required to pick up and track kit even if they do not submit kit to ASCL.
  - 4. Number of Health Care Providers utilizing the Tracking System
    - a. 2019- 68 Providers ; 2020-85 Providers
  - 5. Number of Law Enforcement Agencies utilizing the Tracking System
    - a. 2019-120 LEA; 2020-202 LEA
- b. Clean Slate – we are looking into Federal grant funding to outsource these unsubmitted kits for analysis
- c. We need more education on how to address these issues and to get more Medical Facilities and Law Enforcement Agencies working together.

G. COVID-19 Lab Status

- a. 14 Employees have tested positive
- b. 64 Employees have been required to quarantine
- c. Medical Examiners, Morgue Staff, and Field Investigators will be in Phase 1-A (current phase) to receive COVID-19 vaccine
- d. All other laboratory staff will be in Phase 1-B (estimated to start in February) to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

H. New Business

- a. Facility Assessment and Needs Analysis
  - 1. Requests for bids were sent out to 3 vendors to assess our existing physical structure as well as review our existing workflow challenges

2. Analysis will include staff size and square footage; both a section by section and an overall facility overview
3. Cost opinions for both updated construction to existing building and project cost for a new facility that will have a life-cycle of 30 years

I. New Employees

- a. Welcome Michelle DePriest – Administration and Debra Costello in the Medical Examiner’s Office.

J. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Smith and seconded by Tim Helder. Meeting Adjourned.