

Illinois Forensic Science Commission

Quality Systems Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2025, 1:00 p.m. meeting

- I. Call to order
Subcommittee Chairperson Claire Dragovich, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Web Ex.
- II. Roll-call
The following people were present:
 1. Claire Dragovich, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Chairperson
 2. Jeffrey Buford, FS Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
 3. Frances Kammuel, NIRCL, Subcommittee Member
 4. Joanne Liu, Illinois State Police, Subcommittee Member
 5. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Forensic Science Commission
 6. Lindsay Simpson
 7. Peter St. Andre
 8. Maya Dukmasova
- III. Review of Minutes: The minutes of the May 1, 2025, subcommittee meeting were approved.
- IV. Discussion: Compiling information for and drafting of 2024 Significant Non-Conformity Report for publicly funded ISO 17025 accredited forensic laboratory systems in Illinois.

Ms. Dragovich explained that the subcommittee was provided information from all the laboratories participating in the 2024 reporting of significant non-conformities. The information provided by each laboratory was compiled into a draft report. Ms. Dragovich and Ms. Watroba made formatting changes and, where needed, added clarifying information as noted in the draft report. The draft report also includes a subcommittee summary at the end. Ms. Liu inquired as to the process for offering proposed revisions to the draft report. Ms. Dragovich responded that comments can be made on the draft document in the shared workspace and discussed at a meeting. Ms. Liu also inquired about whether the draft report can be used as a mechanism to communicate recommendations. Ms. Watroba indicated that it can, pursuant to the Commission's enabling statute (20 ILCS 2605/2605-615(b)(4)), which provides that the Commission shall "[r]eview significant non-conformities with the sound practice of forensic science

documented by each publicly funded ISO 17025 accredited forensic laboratory and offer recommendations for the correction thereof.” Ms. Dragovich noted that, consistent with the statutory language, if the subcommittee identifies something that could have been done differently or wants to offer a suggestion on a different way to handle non-conforming work, the subcommittee should communicate that information to all participating laboratories via the report so they can potentially improve their quality procedures.

Ms. Liu and Mr. Buford requested additional time to review the draft document. Since the draft report is traditionally submitted to the full Commission for discussion and approval at the June quarterly meeting, the subcommittee decided to meet again the following week to discuss and finalize the draft report and then push forward to the Commission.

Ms. KammueLLer requested a copy of the Commission’s enabling statute for purposes of preparing the 2025 summary report for her laboratory. Ms. Dragovich indicated she would send her the statute.

V. Old Business
None.

VI. New Business

Ms. Dragovich informed the subcommittee that the Investigative Report regarding the University of Illinois Chicago Analytical Testing Forensic Laboratory (AFTL) was released on May 28, 2025 and is available on AFTL’s website. Ms. Dragovich provided the URL address in the chat. Ms. Dragovich and Ms. Watroba explained that at the March 2025 Forensic Science Commission meeting, the Commission discussed the information publicly available at that time about AFTL’s ability to distinguish between the Delta-8 and Delta-9 isomers, as well as the expected issuance of the Investigative Report at a later date. While the Commission does not have investigatory or regulatory authority, it does have the ability within its statutory scope to monitor issues impacting the delivery of forensic services, to provide a forum for discussions between forensic science stakeholders on such issues, and to decide what next steps it can take within its statutory scope related to issues impacting the delivery of forensic services and sound practice of forensic science in Illinois. The Commission decided that the Quality Systems Subcommittee was best positioned to monitor and discuss the issue at AFTL as more information becomes available because the subcommittee meets more frequently than the Commission and can invite subject matter experts to meetings to analyze information and facilitate discussion.

Ms. Liu inquired as to whether the release of the Investigative Report could impact the draft annual report for 2024. Ms. Dragovich noted that the draft report is

based on information provided by the participating laboratories pursuant to the Commission's statute, whereas the Investigative Report was issued by a law firm. Ms. Dragovich observed that, while this is an unprecedented situation for the subcommittee, the subcommittee could adapt and choose to issue a supplemental annual report for 2024 if warranted after review of the Investigative Report. Ms. Watroba suggested that finalizing the draft annual report based on the information provided by the participating laboratories might be preferable from a procedural standpoint because that report relates to one of the Commission's specific statutory duties. The subcommittee and Commission's subsequent discussions and review of the issue at AFTL could fall under several separate subsections of the Commission's enabling statute/scope. If during that process the subcommittee decides that a supplemental report related to its duty to review annual reports of non-conformities is also warranted, the subcommittee could draft a supplemental report. Mr. Buford noted that the current draft report clearly describes the sources of information relied upon to compile the annual report.

Subcommittee members decided to review the AFTL Investigative Report in addition to the draft annual report prior to the next meeting to determine its potential relevance to the draft annual report.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment offered.

VIII. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:27 p.m.