Illinois Forensic Science Commission
Technology Subcommittee
Open Meeting-Via Web Ex
Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order
   1. 11:00 a.m. by Subcommittee Chairperson Mr. Buford.

II. Roll-call
   1. Jeffrey Buford, Commission Member, Subcommittee Chairperson
   2. Jillian Baker, Commission Member, Subcommittee Member
   3. Amy Watroba, Executive Director-Illinois Forensic Science Commission
   4. Adrienne Bickel, ISP
   5. Casey Craven, ISP
   6. Jamie Edwards, ISP
   7. Jason George, ISP
   8. Gina Havlik, NIRCL
   9. Megan Neff, ISP
   10. Daniel Pruitt, ISP
   11. Cassandra Richards, ISP
   12. Larry Shelton, ISP

III. Review of Minutes/Adoption

   1. Review and adoption of the minutes from the April 23, 2025 subcommittee meeting was postponed to the next subcommittee meeting due to a lack of quorum.

IV. Chairperson Report

   1. Mr. Buford will share a summary report on the subcommittee's meetings at the June 11th meeting of the Forensic Science Commission, which will be held at the ISP Forensic Science Center-Chicago.

V. Discussion- AI Applications in Forensic Science

   1. The subcommittee discussed takeaways from the presentation by Henry Swofford and Melissa Taylor from the Forensic Science Program Office-National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Mr. Buford highlighted the use case catalogue, and the portion of the presentation focused on identifying current and emerging AI applications for forensic science. The slide which listed possible applications of AI by category (i.e. evidence analysis/interpretations, case management, communications, research and training, and quality assurance) was shared. The presentation slides are available in the subcommittee TEAMs channel. Mr. Buford suggested that the subcommittee invite Dr. Swofford and Ms. Taylor back for further discussion focused on specific examples of potential AI applications in

the core forensic disciplines or the other categories in the slide. Ms. Watroba will reach out to Dr. Swofford and Ms. Taylor at the July NIST conference to see if they are available to join a subcommittee meeting for an additional presentation later in the summer.

2. The subcommittee discussed possible next steps for agencies looking to examine and implement AI tools, including the possibility of having a team of personnel dedicated to AI and/or hiring forensic scientists who have additional specialized skill sets related to computers and technology. It was noted that agencies who have been successful at building out automated systems (with or without AI) have personnel with these additional skills. Forensic scientists with additional computer or tech skills could assist other scientists with new systems in addition to helping with optimizing computer programming through LIMS systems and automating systems. Such personnel also could assist with procurement of AI tools to help ensure that AI-related tools are fit for purpose and have value.

3. The subcommittee discussed possible implications of AI systems on court testimony, specifically how testifying forensic scientists will explain AI processes in court. Subcommittee members stressed the importance of this issue and were pleased to see that this topic was included in NIST's presentation. Specifically, subcommittee members stressed that it is important for forensic scientists to understand and be able explain when and how AI systems are used in casework. Transparency is essential so that forensic scientists know what an AI system actually is doing and these processes must be validated and have human oversight. Subcommittee members stressed the importance of training related to AI systems and training related to court testimony about AI systems when they are integrated into casework. Ms. Watroba noted that she will participate in a panel discussion during the July AI Symposium in Washington, D.C. focused on court considerations related to AI technology.

4. The subcommittee discussed the idea of first using AI tools for administrative tasks and technical review, which could help scientists build understanding and trust for AI tools before AI tools are integrated into forensic casework. The importance of buy-in from forensic scientists was discussed. Examples of AI applications to toxicology libraries from other symposiums were shared.

VI. Public Comment

1. No public comment offered.

VII. Next Meeting/ Adjournment

1. The next meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll.
2. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:39 a.m.